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MODERN BIRMINGHAM

AND

ITS INSTITUTIONS:

A CHRONICLE OF LOCAL EVENTS,

FROM 1841 TO 1871.

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

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PREFACE.

With the publication of this volume I conclude my many years labour as a chronicler of Birmingham life. The task has not been easy or remunerative; for such work is never light and rarely profitable. I have, however, the pleasure of knowing that my volumes have already been of service to my fellow-townsmen, and I cherish the hope that they will be found more useful in the future.

In addition to the acknowledgments previously made for help cheerfully given, I have now to record my thanks to Professor Postgate, Mr. Andrew Deakin, Mr. J. H. Madeley, and Mr. B. B. Hackney.

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MODERN BIRMINGHAM.

CHAPTER I.—1851—1861.

POLITICAL RECORD.

THE religious excitement produced by the Pope's Bull did not end with the year 1850. The decade beginning with 1851, was ushered in amid the cries of contending parties. The bells which rung out the old year and rung in the new, did not ring out the "ancient forms of party strife," for the contest was carried on by a kind of guerilla warfare for some time. The Rev. Brewin Grant discussed, not only the Papal Aggression question, but the broader one of the falsehood of the Roman Catholic Church, in a spirit of bitterness equal to those displayed by the advocates of restrictive measures. The Rev. J. C. Miller added fuel to the controversy, by a series of lectures; the Rev. Dr. Dixon also flung a pebble at the great Goliah, but which, unlike David's of old, failed to slay the foe; and on February 6 and 12, Mr. George Dawson reviewed the controversy in two lectures in the Town Hall. It was settled at last, by the legislature passing that most futile of all measures, the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill.

The next subject which excited the public mind of the town was also an ecclesiastical one. This time the Church of England was attacked, and not the Church of Rome. On February 27, an Anti State-Church Meeting was held in the Town Hall, under the presidency of Mr. Joseph Sturge; and the Revs. J. Baker, W. Landells, B. Grant, Mr. George Edmonds, and Mr. T. Parker took part in the proceedings.

The Rev. Mr. Conder, of Leeds, and Mr. E. Miall attended as a deputation from the Anti-State Church Association. The following short but decisive petition was adopted :—

The Petition of the Inhabitants of Birmingham in Public Meeting assembled, &c.,

Sheweth,—That, in the judgment of your petitioners, the State ought not to encourage by temporal advantages or discourage by temporal penalties the promulgation of any religious opinions; and they view the existing union of the Church with the State, not only as highly objectionable and unjust, but as a violation of the rights of conscience, and as likewise productive of continual embarassment to the legislature. Your petitioners further believe that this union does not aid religion, but is opposed to the spirit of Christianity, and detrimental to the best interests of our common faith. Your petitioners therefore pray your honourable House to enact such measures as shall sever the existing connection between the Church and State.

The agitation for the repeal of the "taxes on knowledge" was carried on with energy during the year 1851, and Birmingham was not behind other large towns in protesting against these suicidal imposts, and in asking for their repeal. An Association for this object was formed, and on September 3, Mr. C. Dobson Collet delivered a lecture in the Town Hall, under the presidency of Mr. Alderman Hawkes, on the "history and present state of the question."

On January 16, 1852, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall on Parliamentary Reform; George Edmonds, George Dawson, and the Rev. Brewin Grant took part in the proceedings. Sir Joshua Walmsley, M.P., and George Thompson, M.P., attended as a deputation from the National Parliamentary and Financial Reform Association. The Members of the Borough, G. F. Muntz and W. Scholefield, declined to attend, preferring that the decision of the meeting should be uninfluenced by their presence.

In February a new Reform Bill was introduced into the House of Commons by Lord John Russell, the principal feature of which was the right of voting in counties to be extended to occupiers of premises of £20 rateable value, and in cities and boroughs to occupiers of houses of £5 rateable

value. On the 24th a town's meeting was held in the Town Hall, at which Mr. George Edmonds moved:—

That this meeting having before it the bill introduced into the House of Commons by Lord John Russell, for amending the laws relating to the representation of the people in Parliament, is of opinion that, while it falls short of a full and efficient measure of reform, it effects an improvement in the representation of the county, in so far as it extends the franchise, enlarges small constituencies, dispenses with the property qualification for members of parliament, and abolishes distinctive oaths; and that no ministry that does not accept these provisions as the minimum of Parliamentary Reform, which it is prepared to give to the people, is entitled to the confidence and support of the country.

This resolution was seconded by Mr. George Dawson.

Mr. R. K. Douglas moved an amendment:—

That this meeting considers it essential to the character of the town, and due to its frequently pronounced opinion, to state that no measure of Reform ought to satisfy the people of England which does not include the principle of Universal Suffrage.

Mr. Blaxland seconded this amendment.

Mr. Alderman Baldwin moved another as follows:—

That in the opinion of this meeting any measure of Reform that does not include the shortening of the duration of Parliament, the abolition of the property qualification of Members of Parliament, universal suffrage, and a fair distribution of members corresponding with the population of each district, will not give satisfaction to the people of this country.

Mr. Brown seconded this amendment; and after the meeting had been addressed by Mr. G. F. Muntz, M.P., Mr. W. Scholefield, M.P., and Mr. Geach, M.P., Mr. Baldwin's amendment was carried. The conveners of the meeting then declined to proceed with their other resolutions; and a petition embodying the resolution passed was adopted.

The Reform question was, however, removed from Parliament for some time. On the 21st of February Lord John Russell resigned, and Earl Derby formed a Ministry, with Mr. Disraeli as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Parliament was dissolved on July 1, and on the 10th the nomination for the borough took place in the Town Hall.

There were only two candidates, our old representatives G. F. Muntz and W. Scholefield. The former was nominated by Mr. W. Mathews and Mr. Alderman Lawden, and the latter by Mr. Alderman Beale and Mr. Alderman Hawkes. Both were declared duly elected. The representation of North Warwickshire was warmly contested. The return of Messrs. Newdegate and Spooner was opposed by the Hon. F. K. Craven and Sir T. G. Skipwith. The nomination took place at Coleshill on the 12th, amid a scene of the greatest confusion and violence. Mr. Newdegate was nominated by Sir George Chetwynd, Bart. and Mr. James Taylor, of Moseley; Mr. Spooner, by Lord John Scott and Sir William Hartopp; the Hon Mr. Craven, by Sir Robert Peel and Mr. W. M. Parsons, a tenant farmer; and Sir T. G. Skipwith, by Mr. Kendall, of Packington Hall, and Mr. Baron D. Webster. The show of hands was in favour of the Liberal candidates, when Lord John Scott demanded a poll for Messrs. Newdegate and Spooner.

The polling took place on the 15th and 16th, and the official declaration was made on the 19th. The numbers were, for

Mr. C. N. Newdegate 2,950
Mr. R. Spooner 2,822
The Hon. F. K. Craven 2,038
Sir T G. Skipwith 2,021

The old members were therefore declared duly elected. The Liberals gave up the contest after the first day's polling, which in Birmingham was as follows:—Craven, 815; Skipwith, 814; Spooner, 522; Newdegate, 505.

In 1852 several meetings of non-electors were held for the purpose of raising a testimonial, to be presented to Mr. W. Scholefield, M.P., in recognition of his faithful services in their behalf. It consisted of an address, and a beautiful silver cup, designed by Mr. Kirk, of the School of Design, and manufactured by Mr Gough. The presentation was made on April 15th, 1853 at a public meeting, in the Odd Fellows' Hall, the Mayor in the chair. The inscription on

the cup was—"Presented, by the Non-electors of the Borough of Birmingham, to William Scholefield, Esq., M.P., as a mark of their respect for his able and consistent advocacy of their rights in the House of Commons. 15th April, 1853." The Birmingham glass-makers also presented to Mr. Scholefield a large cup of ruby-coloured crystal glass, with the rose, the thistle, the shamrock, and wreaths of flowers, elaborately cut thereon, bearing this inscription:—"Presented to William Scholefield, Esq., M.P., by the Birmingham District of the United Flint Glass Makers' Friendly Society, as a token of esteem and respect for his advocacy of the cause of education and of the franchise. April 15th, 1853." The flint-glass-makers of the Stourbridge district also made a presentation, consisting of a handsome water jug, and two elegant goblets *en suite*, of the finest crystal, bearing a similar inscription. George Dawson, Alfred Taylor, J. A. Langford, J. Pickering, W. Beddoes, and W. Gillender, took part in the proceedings.

In July an attempt was made to revive the Chartist Agitation; and on the 19th of that month a meeting was held in the Corn Exchange to petition Parliament in favour of the People's Charter. Mr. Ernest Jones and Mr. R. G. Gammage attended as a deputation.

The Russian War has made the year 1854 memorable in the history of Europe. Its existence postponed for the time all measures of national reform. Lord John Russell however introduced his new Reform Bill on February 13, the second reading of which did not take place until March 3. This bill proposed to give a vote to £6 householders in boroughs, and to £10 householders in counties; and to every person in the receipt of £100 per annum, payable quarterly. These extensions were limited by requiring that the £6 householder should have resided two years and ten months in one place to entitle him to vote; and it was further weakened by a very objectionable minority clause. A town's meeting on the subject was held in the Town Hall on March 15, the Mayor in the chair, Messrs. P. H. Muntz,

W. Mathews, W. Scholefield, M.P., H. Hawkes, J. A. Langford, Brooke Smith, and J. S. Winfield, taking part in the proceedings, and resolutions favourable to that part of the bill which provided for the extension of the suffrage, were passed. The bill was withdrawn in the House of Commons on April 21.

A public meeting was held in the Town Hall, on May 18, on the "Position and Prospects of Poland," Mr. Dawson in the chair. Mr. Stanislaus Worcell attended as a deputation from the "Polish Central Democratic Committee." After Mr. Worcell had delivered his address, the Chairman moved, and Mr. J. A. Langford seconded, the following resolution, which was passed unanimously :—

That this meeting, believing that the present war cannot be brought to a satisfactory conclusion, nor a lasting peace secured, without the restoration of the nationality of the Polish people, urges on the Government a full consideration of the just claims of Poland ; that, admiring the undying spirit of the Poles, and sympathising with them in their renewed efforts to obtain their lost nationality, this meeting promises them all just and practicable aid.

On February 21, 1855, another town's meeting was held on "the Independence of Poland." Messrs. T. C. Salt, J. A. Langford, John Wright, James Baldwin, T. H. Gill, F. Onions, and W. Ward took part in the proceedings. Resolutions in favour of her independence, of the establishment of a Polish legion to serve in the Russian War, and a petition to Parliament, were unanimously adopted.

A great town's meeting was held on the 22nd of February for the purpose of "memoralizing the legislature on the necessity of prosecuting the inquiry into the causes of the disasters in the Crimea, and on the system of appointments in the Army and Navy." The meeting was addressed by W. Mathews, the Rev. S. Bache, J. S. Wright, George Dixon, George Dawson, T. H. Gill, T. Davis, and W. Harris. Resolutions in accordance with the objects of the meeting, and a petition embodying their spirit, were passed with the utmost enthusiasm.

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held in Bingley Hall on May 21, at which an Association for Administrative

Reform was constituted, and a Committee of 150 persons appointed to manage its affairs; the mayor presided on the occasion. All parties in the town took part in the meeting, which was addressed by Messrs. W. Mathews, T. A. Attwood, J. A. Langford, Henry Wright, G. F. Muntz, M.P., George Dawson, J. Baldwin, Thomas Lloyd, T. H. Gill, and G. H. St. Clair. An effort was made by Mr. Dalzell to carry a universal suffrage resolution. He was supported by Messrs. Bowen, Hawkins, and Rafferty, and opposed by Messrs. Wilson, J. S. Wright, and J. S. Manton. The mover was advised to withdraw it, but declined, and it was ultimately lost by a large majority, the meeting considering it altogether ill-timed and out of place. The following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

That this meeting entertains a strong and earnest conviction that the disastrous and disgraceful condition in which England has been placed in the conduct of the War with Russia, is mainly attributable to the inefficiency of the executive, and the defective system of conducting the business of the nation; and that this state of things is the natural result of the systematic postponement of merit to family and personal influence in the selection of ministers and other public servants.

That the monopoly of the honourable and lucrative offices of the State by one class, discourages men of ability from qualifying themselves for entering the service of the nation; and this meeting, while it disclaims any desire to exclude the aristocracy from that share in the direction and conduct of public affairs, to which their ability or their special fitness may entitle them, is of opinion that the most prompt and effective remedy for the official mismanagement from which this country is now suffering, is the substitution of the test of merit and fitness for that of rank and family connection in all official appointments.

That an association be now formed in Birmingham for the purpose of promoting Administrative Reform, and that a Committee be appointed (with power to add to their number) to define the constitution of the society, propose laws for its management, and to take measures for enrolling the names of members.

In spite of all this talk, however, the new association proved an utter failure; for at the first annual meeting held on July 9, but six persons attended, and it was consequently adjourned *sine die*.

Mr. David Urquhart commenced a series of meetings for the impeachment of the late ministry, the first of which was held at Bingley Hall on July 5, Mr. George Dawson in the chair. At a meeting held on the following night, a committee consisting of George Dawson, Alderman Allday, S. Timmins, J. A. Langford, W. Potter, and T. H. Gill, was appointed "to watch over the interests of the nation." Under the auspices of Mr. Urquhart a public conference, to "take into consideration England's present position in relation to foreign powers, the war with Russia, and the general state of the country," was opened on July 17, under the presidency of Mr. George Dawson. Several sittings were held, but they led to no result. The conference was resumed on August the 5th, and in the evening a meeting was held in Bingley Hall. In September another meeting was held, at which the Press was assailed in a violent manner, and the criticism of the *Journal* denounced. Mr. Urquhart took occasion to abuse Kossuth and Mazzini, thus exposing the true nature of the agitation which he himself had originated. At this time nearly the whole of the Birmingham Committee had resigned. The history of this foolish business was afterwards published in a pamphlet by Mr. J. A. Langford, which contained some interesting original letters from Kossuth and Mazzini, and one from Mr. Dawson.

There is scarcely any political event to record for the year 1856. The town was exceptionally quiet on all political questions. In June a requisition, signed by 2,989 persons, was sent to Mr. Urquhart asking him to deliver an address, at Bingley Hall, on the Peace, which he wisely declined. He concluded his letter with a sentence which he doubtless thought very severe, but which only raised a smile in all who read it. "I must hold," he wrote, "that England, as represented in Birmingham, is alike incapable of thought and action, and is a country that neither can be saved nor is worth saving."

A meeting was held on October 1, 1856, to "consider what steps should be taken to resist the annual attempt to

disenfranchise the freeholders and other legally qualified voters for the northern division of the County; and also to consider the propriety of forming a Liberal Registration Society." Mr. W. Scholefield, M.P. was in the chair. The object of the meeting was supported by James Taylor, jun., Henry Smith, W. Harris, Robert Wright, J. S. Wright, H. Allbutt, and Councillors Sadler and Jackson. The society was formed, and subscriptions amounting to nearly £100 were handed in at the meeting.

Parliament was dissolved in March 1857, and a general election almost immediately followed with scarcely any political excitement. The old members, G. F. Muntz and W. Scholefield, were the only candidates who offered themselves to the Birmingham electors. The nomination took place on the 27th. Mr. Muntz was proposed by Mr. T. A Attwood and seconded by Mr. J. D. Goodman; Mr. Thomas Lloyd and Mr. Lawden respectively proposed and seconded Mr. Scholefield. The election only occupied about two hours.

The death of Mr. G. F. Muntz, in July, 1857, caused a vacancy in the representation, which the town filled up in a characteristic manner. Mr. John Bright, the "foremost man in the House of Commons" and in the country, had been ungratefully rejected by Manchester at the general election, on account of his views on the Chinese war. The Liberals of Birmingham almost instinctively turned to the great reformer as the proper occupant of the vacant seat. Several candidates were named, but only two were actually submitted to the inhabitants. Mr. Baron Dickenson Webster of Penns Mills, was selected by some of the electors, and issued an address—and a very liberal address it was—soliciting the support of the electors. A public meeting was held in the Town Hall on August 4. Mr. W. Lucy in the chair, when Mr. Bright's candidature was supported by George Edmonds, Alderman Manton, H. Holland, George Dawson, J. S. Wright, and W. Beddoes. Mr. T. A. Attwood, and J. D. Goodman advocated Mr. Webster's claims. Mr. Dalzell suggested Mr. Dawson as the best man who could be

selected, but that gentleman at once declined to be placed in opposition to Mr. Bright. The names of the two candidates were submitted to the meeting, Mr. Bright's being carried by an enormous majority, only about 100 hands being held up for Mr Webster, out of a meeting of 5,000 persons.

A committee to secure Mr. Bright's return was formed, with Alderman Thomas Lloyd chairman, Alderman H. Manton, vice-chairman, and Mr. Robert Wright honorary secretary. The like officers for Mr. Webster's committee were Mr. T. A. Attwood, Alderman C. Lawden, and Mr. J. D. Goodman. Mr. F. Alleyne McGeachey offered himself as a "Liberal Conservative," but excited little attention. The committee of the Lord's Day Defence Association issued a notice signed by J. C. Miller, D.D., chairman, George Pettitt, J. A. James, D. J. Fleetwood and Edmund Heeley, as honorary secretaries, declaring their conviction, "that no candidate should be regarded as satisfactory to the Christian electors of Birmingham who will not oppose all legislation tending to the secularization of that day."

The committees of Mr. Bright and Mr. Webster came to the very sensible arrangement, that whichever of the candidates had the fewest number of promised votes, he would withdraw. The consequence was that Mr. Webster retired, and on the nomination, which took place on August 10, Mr. Bright was elected without opposition. The peculiarity of this election was, that Mr. Bright was not in Birmingham at the time, and had issued his address only two days before the nomination. It was the spontaneous tribute of a great constituency to a great man—which could overlook even great differences of opinion on some subjects, for the sake of securing a representative of the highest eloquence, the most unswerving consistency, the most sterling honesty, and of the broadest liberal views. The Mayor immediately telegraphed the result to Mr. Bright, and received the following letter in reply, which he read at the meeting of the Town Council, on August 11 :—

Rochdale, August 10th, 1857.

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I have to thank you, and I do so most sincerely, for your kindness in sending me the telegraphic message, which informs me that I am one of the Parliamentary Representatives of the great community over which you have the honour to preside. I hope I may have the power hereafter to show that I am not wholly unworthy of the confidence your townsmen have placed in me.

Believe me, with great respect,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN BRIGHT.

The hope contained in this letter has been fully realized. His address to the electors was as follows :—

Rochdale, August 10th, 1857.

Gentlemen,

Your respected Chief Magistrate has informed me by telegraph, that he has this day declared me to be duly elected one of your Representatives in Parliament, and I have learned from other sources that such was the feeling manifested in my favour that no other Candidate was presented to you at the hustings, and that therefore my election has been without contest or opposition from any quarter.

When I addressed you two days ago, I had no expectation of a result so speedy and so tranquil of the then impending struggle ; I accept it as a conclusive proof of the bias of your political views, and of a confidence in me which I shall strive to maintain undiminished.

It is a matter of real regret to me that I have not been able to be with you during the past week, and at the hustings this day ; I shall hope, however, that on some not distant occasion I may be permitted to meet you in your noble Town Hall, and to become more intimately acquainted with a constituency from whom I have received an honour as signal as it was unexpected, and towards whom I can never entertain other feelings than those of respect and gratitude.

With heartfelt thanks for your kindness, which I trust I may have the health and opportunity in some measure to repay,

I subscribe myself,

Very faithfully yours,

JOHN BRIGHT.

A short time after Mr. Bright's election the *Globe* newspaper stated that the honourable member was pestered with numerous applications from his constituents for subscriptions and patronage to all sorts of institutions. To this statement Mr. Bright made the following reply :—

Llandudno, North Wales,
September 25th, 1857.

Sir,

In your paper of Saturday I observe a paragraph referring to my political connection with Birmingham, which states that 'the calls for patronage of all sorts, for contributions to charities, and challenges to political discussion, have we are informed, been incessant since my election.' It may serve to correct your information if I tell you, that since my election I have had only two applications for pecuniary assistance, to one of which I wrote the reply which you have published; that applications for 'patronage' have not been more numerous than those for pecuniary contributions; and that I have not heard a single word about political discussion.

As I was returned without a contest and without expense, so I have been treated, since my election, with marked kindness and forbearance; and I can assure you that the quiet which is still needful for me is not disturbed by applications from, or unnecessary correspondence with, my constituents.

I request you to publish this, that I may not seem to sanction statements which are not true, and which injuriously affect those to whom I am so greatly indebted.

I am, respectfully yours,
JOHN BRIGHT.

On September 10, a Liberal Registration Society for North Warwickshire was formed, for the purpose of revising the register of votes for the Northern Division of the County. Mr. J. H. Merridew was appointed secretary of the new society.

The Liberals of the town took advantage of Lord John Russell's presence at the Social Science Congress on October 16, to present the following address to his lordship:—

My Lord,—We, members of the political party that delight in the name of Liberal, rejoice in the presence of your lordship in our town, and cannot suffer you to depart without expressing to you our constant and grateful remembrance of the distinguished services you have rendered to the cause of Political Reform, and Civil and Religious Liberty. We need not recount these services. They are written in our Country's history.

We also desire to express our hope that your lordship may long live to write your name on many another page of our national history; certain, that, however we may differ from you in details, all your future, like your past life, will be devoted to the furtherance of the political enfranchisement of your countrymen, and to the removal of the last remnant of religious intolerance and sectarian exclusion.

This is not the time to press upon your lordship our views on particular measures. We desire simply to express to you our gratitude for your past services, our admiration of your character, and our earnest hope that your lordship may be spared to consummate those political and religious reforms with which your name will ever be associated.

In consequence of the failure of certain joint-stock companies, and of the commercial panic which ensued, parliament was called together this year on December 3. The Queen opened the session in person, and in her speech said:—"Circumstances have arisen connected with the mercantile interest of the country which have induced me to call Parliament together before the usual time. The failure of certain joint-stock banks, and of some commercial firms, produced such an extent of distrust as led me to authorize my Ministers to recommend to the directors of the Bank of England the adoption of a course of proceeding which appeared necessary for allaying the prevalent alarm. As that course has involved a departure from the existing law, a bill for indemnifying those who advised, and those who adopted it, will be submitted for your consideration." Reference was also made in the speech to the Indian Mutiny, the affairs of the East Indian Dominions generally, and it was added that during the session the attention of the House would be directed to the "laws which regulate the Representation of the People in parliament, with a view to consider what amendment may be safely and beneficially made therein."

On the assembling of parliament Mr. Bright addressed the following letter to his constituents:—

Rochdale, December 2, 1857.

My dear Sir,

As parliament, contrary to expectation, is about to meet before the usual time, I fear the electors of Birmingham will feel some disappointment if I do not make my appearance in the House during the present week, and the more so, from the circumstance that my colleague, Mr. Scholefield, will also be absent.

It is not necessary for me to explain to you, or to the gentlemen who communicated with me at the time of my election, why I am not likely to begin my parliamentary duties before Christmas. It was then understood that, for six months, that is, until the time when parliament usually assembles, I was not to be expected to undertake any labour

connected with the position in which I was placed by the good opinion of the electors of Birmingham. My own judgment, and the urgent advice of my friends and medical advisers, compelled me to make a resolution to that effect, and those Birmingham friends with whom I had any communication, granted me a dispensation for that period. I do not suppose that any real business will be transacted before February, and therefore I hope that nothing which is entrusted to me will suffer from my temporary absense from the House.

It is because I wished to abstain as much as possible from public affairs, that I have not troubled my constituents with any views I may entertain on the great subjects which have been so much discussed during the past three months. On the question of India, indeed, I feel that it is almost rashness to utter a decided opinion, and I know not whether one ought to regard with admiration or with pity many of those who have written and spoken so confidently upon it since the occurrence of the insurrection. Judging from the writings of the newspapers, and from the speeches of public men, I fear the country is not sufficiently aware of the crisis which has arisen, whether we regard the difficulty of restoring order in India, or the obstacles which oppose themselves to the future government of that country. Five years ago, when the India Bill was about to come under discussion, I thought I knew something of India, and felt that I could give advice on the subject. But the scene has totally changed, and that which was easy to be done in fair weather, may be impossible, or of little avail, when the storm rages. I presume, however, that the days of the Leadenhall Street rulers are numbered. Without character, and without power, it requires but a vote of parliament to give legal effect to that which, I believe, the public opinion of England has already decreed. If the coming session shall establish the government of India on a secure and wise basis, so far as that is possible in the unnatural position in which we stand to that country, I shall feel that parliament has not laboured in vain ; and if the threatened postponement of a Reform Bill be a disappointment to me and to many others, I shall endeavour to console myself with the hope that the improvement of our representation will, hereafter, be intrusted to more friendly hands than those which now administer the affairs of the country.

Excuse me for troubling you with this letter, and believe me

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN BRIGHT.

To Thomas Lloyd, Esq.,
Birmingham.

On December 25, some of the old Reformers held a meeting to consider whether an effective union of the middle and

working classes could be formed for the purpose of agitating for an extensive measure of Reform in 1858. The meeting was adjourned until January 2, in order that the necessary preliminary steps might be taken for the formation of a Reformers' Union. At the meeting on January 2, it was resolved :—

That it is desirable that a Reform Union should be established in Birmingham, and that the following should be its bases :—1st, a much wider extension of the suffrage ;—2nd, a redistribution of electoral districts ;—3rd, the ballot ;—4th, abolition of property qualification ;—and 5th, shortening the duration of parliament.

An amendment, that "manhood suffrage" should be substituted for a "wider extension," and that "payment of members" should be one of the objects of the Union, was negatived.

At a public meeting held on January 5, Mr. J. S. Wright in the chair, the above programme was discussed, and it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Derrington, to adopt the whole of the London bases of reform, which were :—

1. (A.) The extension of the borough franchise in England and Wales to 'every male person of full age, and not subject to any legal incapacity,' who shall occupy as owner or tenant in part or whole, any premises within the borough which are rated for the relief of the poor.

(B.) The extension of the county franchise in England and Wales to all £10 occupiers at least.

(C.) The assimilation, as far as possible, of the franchise in Scotland and Ireland to those of England and Wales.

(2.) Protection to the voter by the ballot, on a plan similar to that adopted in the Australian Colonies.

(3.) A re-apportionment of the seats that shall make such an approach to an equalization of constituencies as shall give in the United Kingdom a majority of members to a majority of electors.

(4.) Abolition of property qualification for members.

(4.) The calling the parliament every three years.

Messrs. G. Edmonds, W. Morgan, J. Taylor, jun., W. Harris, J. P. Hopps, J. S. Manton, E. Holmes, W. Radford, J. S. Wright, J. A. Langford, H. Allbutt, W. Beddoes, J. Pickering, A. Taylor, C. Hawkesford, W. Smith, J. Whateley, Hawkins,

Potter, and J. Davis, were appointed a provisional committee to make arrangements for holding a town's meeting.

A general meeting of the Liberals of the Northern Division of the county was held in connection with the Liberal Registration Association, on January 19, the Hon. E. Chandos Leigh in the chair. The report stated that the new registration had resulted in a claim given of 400 to the Liberal party. Sir J. G. Skipwith, Bart, Thos. Lloyd, the Rev. A. W. Gregory, J. Taylor, jun., C. H. Bracebridge, and A. Ryland, took part in the proceedings.

The new Reform Union held several meetings, and the provisional committee arranged for a town's meeting, which was held in the Town Hall, on February 2. The requisition to the Mayor was signed by upwards of 4000 inhabitants. The resolution approving of the London bases which was moved by George Edmonds, seconded by J. A. Langford, and supported by W. Scholefield, M.P. and W. Beddoes, was carried unanimously. A petition to parliament was proposed by J. S. Wright, and seconded by J. W. McCardie, when Mr. Haywood moved an amendment in favour of manhood suffrage. This was seconded by Mr. Rathles, and supported by Alderman Baldwin; but after speeches by James Taylor, Jun., J. S. Manton, and Mr. Fisher, the amendment was withdrawn. At this meeting the following letter from Mr Bright was read :—

Rochdale, February 1, 1858.

My dear Sir,

Although I am unable to be upon your platform to-morrow, be assured that I shall be with you in spirit, and that I wish every success to your Reform movement. May I intrude upon you with a few lines on the great topic you are about to discuss ?

I observe that in the first paragraph of your circular you ask the aid of your townsmen in the endeavour to obtain an "extension of the suffrage." Afterwards you insert the proposition of the London Committee, which I am very glad to see you have adopted ; but you are probably looking to "the extension of the suffrage" as the main point and principal demand of the new agitation. I am as much for the extension as you can be, and therefore I can, without suspicion as to my wishes with regard to it, the more frankly warn you of a danger which I see before us.

Twenty-five years ago, the Tory party, and the Whigs almost as much so, were greatly afraid of an extension of the suffrage; now very few persons of any intelligence, even among the Conservatives, are afraid of it. The propositions made some time ago by the Governments of Lord John Russell and Lord Aberdeen, showed clearly that the franchise is no longer the dread of the aristocratic and ruling classes; and it is not unlikely that Lord Palmerston, if he produce a Reform Bill, will go a long way in the direction in which we wish to go, so far as the franchise is concerned.

We can easily understand this. The franchise, itself, gives no real power, unless accompanied by the right, on the part of all the possessors of it, to elect something like an equal number of representatives. I could easily frame a bill which would give "Universal Suffrage," in its widest sense, and which would confirm, more strongly than ever, the supremacy of the English oligarchy over the English people. If your great city, with its great constituency, is only to send two men to Parliament, whilst an equal population and property in some other part or parts of the kingdom is to send twenty men to Parliament, then, I say, your franchise is of little avail. The man who can merely shout at the hustings, or contribute to the show of hands, is, in reality, in almost as good a position as the man who votes, if the value of votes is rendered so unequal, or is nearly destroyed, by the unequal distribution of representatives among the whole body of electors.

The Government and the Parliament, even the House of Lords, will consent to a large increase of electors, and men who have not considered the subject fully, will imagine they have gained much by the concession.

Lord John Russell, in his many speeches on a further measure of Reform, generally, if not always, confines himself to an extension of the Franchise, and his last Bill, although it would have added largely to the number of Electors throughout the kingdom, would have done absolutely nothing to lessen the power of the order to which he belongs, or to increase that of the nation as distinguished from its privileged and aristocratic class.

It is not a matter of opinion, or of any doubt, that I am discussing; it is a question of fact and of arithmetic, and therefore I wish to urge it strongly upon your attention. The contest in the question of reform will be on the distribution of the seats. Will the great borough of the Tower Hamlets, with its half a million of population, be content to return only two members to parliament? Will Finsbury, will Mary-le-bone, will Lambeth, and the other London boroughs? Will Glasgow, and Manchester, and Liverpool, and Birmingham, and the other leading cities of the United Kingdom, be content to dwarf themselves, politically to the size of boroughs whose whole population would scarcely people

one of their inferior streets? Shall it be admitted that, the more men come together, the more they are industrious, skilful, intelligent, and powerful in every other respect, the less shall be their influence in the government of their country? This is the great question, and it rests with the people of Birmingham to do much to solve it.

Any Reform Bill which is worth a moment's thought, or the smallest effort to carry it, must at least double, and it ought to do much more than double, the representation of the Metropolitan Boroughs, and of all the great cities of the United Kingdom. The United States of America, and Belgium, and Sardinia, comprehend this simple question. A year ago I was in the City of Geneva, and I found that it returned *seven* representatives to the Sardinian Parliament at Turin: seven being its fair share, calculated according to the population of the various cities and districts of the Sardinian Kingdom. In this country, throughout Great Britain and Ireland, you will find that property, rated to the relief of the poor, follows very closely the course of population; and the only just principle of representation is, that the industry, property, intelligence, and population of the country should be, as nearly as may be, equally represented wherever they are to be found. I am not arguing for any mathematical precision in this matter, but for such a change as shall really give the House of Commons to the nation. The third proposition in your list adopts this principle, and I only dwell upon it because I know that reformers are too much accustomed to look upon the suffrage as if it were the all-important, or the only important, point in their creed.

With regard to the ballot; it is worthy of remark that no meeting has been held for many years in favour of reform, at which the ballot has not been strongly insisted on. If reform is to be granted to gratify and content reformers; if their judgment and unanimity are sufficient to justify, or to force, its concession, then, surely, the ballot cannot be denied to us, and I feel certain it will not long be refused. The ballot is not so much a principle as a convenience. It does not bestow the franchise, it only guarantees that which the law has already conferred. A voter goes to the poll in a cab because it is easier and sometimes safer for him, than to struggle through an excited crowd on foot; why should he not be allowed to vote by ballot, to shelter him from the more serious annoyance he may be, and is now, often subjected to, from the importunity, or the threats, of his landlord, his creditor, or his customer.

When the two hundred men, now in the House of Commons, who are pledged to support the ballot, or when one hundred of them, or when *fifty of them*, are in earnest, and tell the Government they are resolved to have it, and that they will leave any Government that will not grant it in the hands of the Philistines on the opposite side of the house,—then, and probably not till then, will the ballot be conceded. I dread

to think of the consequences of a wide extension of the suffrage to employers of labour to a hateful tyranny, and it will doom mulitudes of the employed, I fear, to a not less hateful condition of political degredation.

I write this letter chiefly that I may warn you against the pitfalls that are in your path. Your cause is not in the hands of friends. Your forces in the parliamentary field are commanded by men taken from, or chosen by, your constant and natural opponents ; and they lead them, not for your purposes, but for their own. I beseech you to watch well what is proposed, and what is done. Be the measure great or small, let it be *honest* in every part. Include as many as you can in the right of the franchise. Insist upon such a distribution of seats as shall give the House of Commons fairly to the industry, the property, the intelligence, and the population of the country. Demand the ballot as the undeniable right of every man who is called to the poll ; and take special care that the old constitutional rule and principle by which *majorities* alone shall decide in parliamentary elections shall not be violated.

I give my hearty support, as I have heretofore done, to the propositions contained in your circular. I lament that I cannot join you in your meeting to-morrow, for I esteem it a great honour to be permitted to act with the inhabitants of Birmingham on that question, which, a quarter of a century ago, they did so much to advance, and on which their potent voice is once more about to be heard.

I am, very sincerly yours,

JOHN BRIGHT.

To George Edmonds, Esq.,
Birmingham.

On February 19, Lord Palmerston's Government was defeated on the Conspiracy to Murder Bill by a majority of 234 against 215. At the next meeting of the Reformers' Union a resolution was passed, thanking our two representatives for having voted with the majority on that occasion. The Honorary Secretary, Mr. J. S. Wright, received the following replies to the resolution :—

Reform Club, 9th March, 1858.

My dear Sir,

Pray say to your Committee how much I feel indebted to them for including my name in the complimentary resolution of which you have sent me a copy. I have never had the least hesitation, whether as to Mr. Milner Gibson's Resolution, or the Conspiracy Bill itself. I hope we shall not again hear of the latter.

Yours very truly,

WILLIAM SCHOLEFIELD.

Rochdale, March 9th.

My dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the resolution passed at your recent public meeting on the subject of the Conspiracy Bill.

I am very glad that the course taken by the majority of the House of Commons, with reference to that Bill, has met with the support of your townsmen, and that in acting with the majority I have their approval.

I am much obliged to my friends for the expression of that approval in the resolution of which you have sent me a copy.

Believe me, truly yours,
JOHN BRIGHT.

The recent annexation of the kingdom of Oude to British territory excited some attention at this time, and on April 1, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall to consider the question, as also the subject of Indian Reform generally. Alderman J. Baldwin was called to the chair, and on the motion of the Rev. A. G. O'Neill, seconded by J. P. Murrough, it was resolved :—

That whereas the most solemn treaties entered into with the Government of Oude have guaranteed to that Government the integrity of its dominions, this meeting is of opinion that international law and justice alike demand the restoration of that kingdom to native authority.

Mr. Ernest Jones moved, and Mr. Ward seconded the adoption of a petition to Parliament praying for its restoration. It was signed by the Chairman on behalf of the meeting, and forwarded to Mr. Bright for presentation to the House of Commons.

The Reformers' Union held a meeting on April 12, at which a report was presented, showing that since its formation the Union had held six public meetings and that the expenditure had not exceeded the receipts.

Ever since Mr. Bright's election, a rumour had been industriously circulated to the effect that he looked upon his connection with this town as a mere convenience, to be relinquished whenever Manchester should repent and seek to redeem its character by again electing him as one of its

representatives. A Liberal of Birmingham wrote to Mr. Bright in reference to this idle gossip, and received from him the following decisive reply :—

Rochdale, May 26, 1858.

Dear Sir,

I know nothing of the report to which you allude, and certainly I have said nothing to justify it. Remembering the circumstances under which I was returned for Birmingham, it is strange that any one should imagine I could prefer any other constituency so long as I remain in the House of Commons, and so long as my opinions and course in Parliament are not opposed to the views of those I have now the honour to represent. I know no nobler constituency than that of Birmingham, and no member of the House of Commons owes more to a constituency than I owe to that on whose behalf I now speak and vote in Parliament.

I am, very respectfully yours,
JOHN BRIGHT.

It was not until October 27 that Mr. Bright was able to meet his constituents, who had, voluntarily and in his absence, elected him as their representative. The meeting, which was held in the Town Hall on that day, was densely crowded. No one who witnessed the excitement which took place on the occasion can ever forget it. As soon as his face appeared, the whole audience gave such a unanimous burst of cheering as is rarely heard, and which was repeated for several minutes ; and when, after having spoken for nearly two hours, Mr. Bright resumed his seat, the applause was renewed with even more ardent demonstrations of enthusiasm. The speech which he delivered was on the subject of Reform, and forms the first of the series under that head in the collected edition of his speeches published in 1868. It concluded with the following splendid and pathetic peroration :—

I have a suggestion to make, which I hope somebody will act upon. The Reformers now are more numerous than ever they were before. Why should they not, by some arrangement, have their own Reform Bill ; have it introduced into Parliament, and supported with all the strength of this great national party ; and if it be a bill sensibly better than the bill that is being prepared for us in Downing Street, why should we not, with all the unanimity of which we are capable, by public meetings, by petitions, and, when the proper time comes, by presenting ourselves at the polling booths, do everything in our power to

pass that measure into law? I say that we are great in numbers; that, united, we are great in strength; that we are invincible in the solidity of our arguments; that we are altogether unassailable in the justice of our cause. Shall we then, I ask you, even for a moment, be hopeless of our great cause? I feel almost ashamed even to argue it to such a meeting as this. I call to mind where I am, and who are those whom I see before me. Am I not in the town of Birmingham, England's central capital; and do not these eyes look upon the sons of those who, not thirty years ago, shook the fabric of privilege to its base? Not a few of the strong men of that time are now white with age. They approach the confines of their mortal day. Its evening is cheered with the remembrance of that great contest, and they rejoice in the freedom they have won. Shall their sons be less noble than they? Shall the fire which they kindled be extinguished with you? I see your answer in every face. You are resolved that the legacy which they bequeathed to you you will hand down an accumulated wealth of freedom to your children. As for me, my voice is feeble, I feel now sensibly and painfully that I am not what I was. I speak with diminished fire; I act with a lessened force; but as I am, my countrymen and my constituents, I will, if you will let me, be found in your ranks in the impending struggle.

At its conclusion a vote of thanks to Mr. Bright was moved by Alderman Manton, seconded by George Edmonds, and passed with acclamation. In his reply Mr. Bright paid a graceful tribute to the services rendered by his colleague, Mr. W. Scholefield, who at that time was in America. He said that "nothing could be more harmonious, and friendly, and brotherly than the course which Mr. Scholefield has taken with me since I was elected, what was to me the greatest possible honour, to represent you and be his colleague."

On the 28th an address from the Reformers' Union was presented to Mr. Bright on the subject of Reform, and in the short speech and the conversation which passed on the occasion, the honorable member assured the deputation that he would do all in his power to forward their views; and he trusted that their labours would result in producing a good and effective measure.

Mr. Bright was entertained at a public dinner in the Town Hall, on the 29th, Mr. P. H. Muntz occupying the chair. Mr. W. Mathews proposed "the Liberal Members of both Houses of Parliament," to which Mr. Bass, M.P., responded.

In reply to the toast of his own health, Mr. Bright delivered another magnificent speech. This time it was on our Foreign Policy, and is published under that title in the second volume of his Speeches. He afterwards gracefully and heartily proposed the health of his absent colleague, Mr. W. Scholefield, which was received with the greatest enthusiasm.

Of the speech delivered at this dinner I quote the conclusion :—

The most ancient of profane historians has told us that the Scythians of his time were a very warlike people, and that they elevated an old cimeter upon a platform as a symbol of Mars, for Mars alone, I believe, they built altars and offered sacrifices. To this cimeter they offered sacrifices of horses and cattle, the main wealth of the country, and more costly sacrifices than to all the rest of their gods. I often ask myself whether we are at all advanced in one respect beyond those Scythians. What are our contributions to charity, to education, to morality, to religion, to justice, and to civil government, when compared with the wealth we expend in sacrifices to the old cimeter? Two nights ago I addressed in this hall a vast assembly composed to a great extent of your countrymen who have no political power, who are at work from the dawn of the day to the evening, and who have therefore limited means of informing themselves on these great subjects. Now I am privileged to speak to a somewhat different audience. You represent those of your great community, who have a more complete education, who have on some points greater intelligence, and in whose hands reside the power and influence of the district. I am speaking, too, within the hearing of those whose gentle nature, whose fine instincts, whose pure minds, have not suffered as some of us have suffered in the turmoil and strife of life. You can mould opinion, you can create political power,—you cannot think a good thought on this subject and communicate it to your neighbours,—you cannot make these points topics of discussion in your social circles and more general meetings, without affecting sensibly and speedily the course which the Government of your country will pursue. May I ask you, then, to believe, as I do most devoutly believe, that the moral law was not written for men alone in their individual character, but that it was written as well for nations, and for nations as great as this of which we are citizens. If nations reject and deride that moral law, there is a penalty which will inevitably follow. It may not come at once, it may not come in our life-time ; but, rely upon it, the great Italian is not a poet only, but a prophet, when he says,—

> 'The sword of heaven is not in haste to smite,
> Nor yet doth linger !'

We have experience, we have beacons, we have landmarks enough. We know what the past has cost us, we know how much and how far we have wandered, but we are not left without a guide. It is true we have not, as an ancient people had, Urim and Thummim—those oraculous gems on Aaron's breast—from which to take counsel, but we have the unchangeable and eternal principles of moral law to guide us, and only so far as we walk by that guidance can we be permanently a great nation, or our people a happy people.

The reformers of England, at a conference held in London, had entrusted to Mr. Bright the preparation of a Reform Bill, and its introduction into parliament. A meeting was held November 12, for the purpose of considering the best means of coöperating with Mr. Bright in his attempts to unite the Liberal party in support of the measure.

It was moved by Mr. W. Lucy, seconded by Mr. Lloyd,—

"Believing that such a bill will be satisfactory to the great body of the people,—*Resolved*, that this meeting is of opinion that Mr. Bright should be supported by the combined energies of the Liberals of Birmingham."

It was also resolved, on the motion of George Edmonds, seconded by Alderman Hawkes,—

"That an Association, to be called 'The Birmingham Reform Association,' be now formed for the purpose of coöperating with Mr. Bright, and of watching over any bill on the subject of Reform introduced into Parliament, and that an annual subscription constitute membership."

Mr. P. H. Muntz was elected President; W. Lucy, W. Middlemore, and Henry Wright, Vice-Presidents; Thomas Lloyd, Treasurer; Robert Wright and W. S. Allen, Honorary Secretaries, and a large and influential committee was appointed. Upwards of £250 was subscribed at the meeting.

At the beginning of December the Association issued the following address to the Reformers of Great Britain and Ireland:—

Fellow Countrymen,

We invite you to coöperate with us in an attempt to obtain, by legitimate and peaceable means, an efficient Reform in the Representation of the People in the House of Commons.

The Association we have formed embraces men of all shades of Liberal opinion, enfranchised middle class, and non-electors. We have agreed to sink all minor differences, and to work together to obtain these reforms, viz :—

1. A large extension of the Suffrage.
2. Vote by Ballot.
3. A more Equal Apportionment of Members to Population.

These Reforms we believe lie at the root of all others about which Liberals have hitherto been unhappily divided. They offer a broad and well-defined common bond of union, for they lie in the direction in which the most decided Liberal is advancing.

We are no theorists. We do not wish to impair institutions bequeathed by our forefathers, and which, on the whole, have proved suitable to the wants of our country : our object is to expand, consolidate, and strengthen them. We are loyal subjects of the Crown, and venerate the illustrious lady who fills the throne. We have no desire to interfere with the fair and legitimate action of the House of Peers in the government of the country, nor with the just influence of the aristocracy. We have no intention to set class against class. We believe all to be so intermingled that the permanent interests of the Peer and the Peasant, the Manufacturer and the Artisan, are identical and inseparable.

But we claim for the House of Commons that it shall represent the opinions and interests not of a class, but of the great body of the people.

It is notorious that with the present restricted franchise, with the hindrances to its honest exercise which the plan of open voting interposes, and with the system of counterpoise by which small constituencies neutralize the opinions of vast bodies of the electors, the House of Commons does not truly represent the national will.

Reformers are accused of seeking Reform for the mere sake of change. We deny the charge. We desire a change because we want good government.

Under the present system, with the influence of the aristocracy predominant in both Houses, Ministries are confined to two parties ; and a few families have generally monopolised the government of the country. The Administration is the Ministry of a party ; its energies are wasted in the endeavour to maintain place and power, and, however patriotic, it is rarely able to grapple with any subject which might affect the interests of its supporters. Hence the constant changes in the Administration, hence the personal unfitness of many of those who direct the great departments of the State, the consequent detriment to the public service, and the scandal to political morality. There is no national Administration. The business of the Legislature is neglected ; measure after measure is introduced and abandoned ; commissions issue without result, and the real work of legislation is made subordinate to the possession of office.

Although these facts are obvious enough, it may be well to notice a few of the subjects that have long required the attention of successive Governments, but have been neglected :—

Administrative Reform is required in almost every department of the State.

We require immediate attention to our financial condition. With a debt constantly increasing, the Budget constructed on no fixed principle, merely tiding over the difficulty, and attempting to show a favourable balance on the year's account, no provision is made for extraordinary emergencies, or any suggestion even of diminishing the debt.

We require a readjustment of the Property and Income Tax, so that the tax on income derived from realized property, and the Income Tax upon industry, shall not remain the same. On no grounds of equity can it be maintained that the man who gains £100 per annum by his profession or trade, should be taxed in the same ratio as he who derives the same income from the funds, landed, or other accumulated property.

We require Free Trade internally : that the home manufacturer shall not be cramped by vexatious Excise Duties, when the foreign article is imported free. As for example, in the case of the paper and hop duties: both of them opposed to the fundamental principles of Free Trade.

We require a settlement of the question of National Education.

We require an investigation into the causes of the enormous mass of pauperism that now presses on the country ;—one in every eleven of the adult population being a pauper, and probably as many more are just on the verge of destitution.

We require stringent laws against seduction, and that the disgusting profligacy which disgraces both town and country should have the serious attention of the Legislature.

We require a searching investigation into charitable and other trusts, in which the funds are either misappropriated, or the trust badly administered. Nearly every parish in England can furnish an illustration.

We require a revision and consolidation of the statute law. Many laws are obsolete, many contradictory, and the Judges have often to decide by *majorities* what *is* law.

We require a complete change in the Bankruptcy laws. Bad as the old law was, the present is much worse. Barristers and official assignees are appointed to manage insolvent estates, without competent qualifications to decide commercial questions ; and the proceeds of such estates are often swallowed up in charges.

We require facilities for the transfer of real estate. At present the expense is enormous, and numberless titles are defective. In the United States, or in our own province of Upper Canada, real estate is transferred at the expense of a few shillings, and the titles are incontestible.

Such, fellow countrymen, are a few of the questions in finance, in commerce, in morals, and in law—all of them out of the province of party warfare—which have been postponed to the cabals and intrigues of rival statesmen and place-hunters ; which ought to have occupied the attention of the House of Commons, and which will do so as soon as that House fairly represents the national will.

If it were necessary to make out a case in favour of an extension of the suffrage, the reasonableness of which even the opponents of popular government now admit, we might contrast the present state of society with its social, intellectual, and commercial condition a quarter of a century ago. Intelligence has immensely increased—the working man is more sober, thoughtful, and provident, conscious alike of his rights and his duties. There is a greater respect for the laws, a more intimate knowlege of the relation in which one man and one class stand to another. During these five and twenty years, while this capacity for self government has been increasing to an extent that makes the working man of the present day equal in intelligence to those enfranchised by the Act of 1832, the existing basis of representation, with its disqualifying clauses of ratepaying and registration, has shut him out from all share in the government of the country, and the great industrial interest has been and is practically unrepresented.

Fellow-Countrymen,—The Reformers of Birmingham have united themselves together for the purpose of removing this injustice, by obtaining a fairer and more honest representation of the people. Progressive liberal and advanced reformer, elector and non-elector, we have resolved to sink all minor differences of political faith in the determination to advance our common cause.

In this cause we have no wish to lead. We will either follow, or go side by side with others. We desire only the welfare of our common country.

We call upon you to aid us in our endeavour to secure the efficiency of any measure of Reform which may be introduced into Parliament ;—by forming Associations, by public meetings, by petitions to Parliament, by obtaining the coöperation of your representatives, and by every legitimate and peaceable means which the Constitution allows. Above all things, be united. Apathy has to be overcome, active opposition to be defeated, and discord and distrust to be guarded against.

Reformers, you can succeed if you will. Upon your determination now depends the character of the next Reform Bill. Your earnestness now may decide whether party or the national will, shall triumph—whether an end shall be put to the constant agitation and discontent which a sense of injustice inspires, or whether the moderate demand now made by the people for a fair share in the government of the country, shall be accumulated by vexatious delays, so as ultimately to create—as

procrastination did once before—so violent an impulse as will no longer admit of a calm and deliberate consideration and settlement of the question.

Signed on behalf of the Birmingham Reform Association.

P. H. MUNTZ, Chairman.

Birmingham, 3rd December, 1858.

To aid in carrying on the agitation for Reform, a Camden Club was formed; and at a meeting held early in December, a resolution in favour of manhood suffrage, vote by ballot, re-apportionment of seats, and triennial parliaments was adopted. At this meeting the following letter from Mr. Bright was read:—

Rochdale, December 7, 1858.

Sir,

I have your notice and the papers sent with it. I am glad to see any honest movement in favour of Reform, and any attempt to give information to the people will be of service. The more the unenfranchised classes comprehend the question, the more will they wish to have a voice in the government of the country, and the better will they be prepared rightly to use the influence which the possession of the franchise, when obtained, will confer upon them. Thanking you for your note,

I am, very respectfully yours,

JOHN BRIGHT.

Mr. Henry Cooper, 142, Camden Street,
Birmingham.

Early in 1859, Mr. Bright introduced into the House his Reform Bill; which was based upon the broad principles of the Reform Association programme. A town's meeting was held in the Town Hall, on February 1, for the purpose of considering the proposed Bill. Mr. P. H. Muntz moved, and Alderman Baldwin seconded, the following resolution:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the present restricted franchise, which excludes the great body of the people from the right of voting in the election of members of the House of Commons, the plan of open voting which interferes with the free and conscientious exercise of those rights, and the unequal distribution of members to the population, whereby the opinions of large constituencies are swamped by small and corrupt boroughs, are unjust, and should no longer be continued.

Mr. Brooke Smith moved as an amendment that the words having reference to "open voting," be omitted; but his proposal did not find a seconder. Mr. Mills moved as a further amendment:—

That this meeting disagrees with that part of the scheme of Mr. Bright which limits the suffrage to the ratepaying class, and that manhood suffrage be included in it.

This amendment was seconded by Mr. Joesbury; Mr. J. A. Langford supported the original resolution, which, upon being put to the meeting, was carried by an overwhelming majority. Mr. George Edmonds next moved:—

That this meeting, agreeing generally with the scheme of Reform propounded by Mr. Bright, and having entire faith in his integrity, hereby pledges itself to give him its most hearty support in his endeavours to promote such a scheme of Parliamentary Reform as shall be satisfactory to the great body of the people.

This was seconded by Alderman Manton, and passed amid general cheering. On the motion of Mr. J. S. Wright, seconded by Mr. W. Middlemore and supported by Mr. W. Beddoes, a petition to the House of Commons was adopted in favour of Mr. Bright's Bill.

Soon after the opening of Parliament the Government of Lord Derby introduced their Reform Bill, which contained the franchises which Mr. Bright so happily designated "fancy." It proposed to give a vote to "persons having £10 per annum in the Public Funds, Bank Stock, or India Stock, or £60 in a Savings Bank; and to recipients of pensions in the Naval, Military, and Civil Services, amounting to £20 a year. Dwellers in a portion of a house whose aggregate rent was £20 a year could have a vote. The suffrage was also to be given to graduates of the Universities, ministers of religion, members of the legal and medical professions, and to certain school-masters. The Government recommended an identity of franchise in counties and boroughs, and therefore proposed to reduce the occupation franchise in counties to £10. The Bill proposed the use of voting papers, and the disfranchisement of such freeholders in towns as voted for counties."* The

* Speeches and Questions of Public Policy, by John Bright, M.P.; Edited by James E. Thorold Rogers. Vol. II. p. 81.

Liberals throughout the country opposed the Bill. The Birmingham Reform Association prepared a petition condemning it, and praying the House of Commons not to pass into law any measure which did not include a large extension of the suffrage, vote by ballot, and a more equal distribution of seats.

A great town's meeting was held on the subject on March 9, Mr. W. Lucy presiding in the absence of the Mayor from illness. Mr. Scholefield and Mr. Bright were both present and addressed the meeting, strongly denouncing the Conservative Government Bill. The first resolution was moved by George Edmonds, and was as follows :—

That the Reform Bill introduced by Her Majesty's Government which, while pretending to effect a settlement of the question makes no adequate provision for the enfranchisement of the working classes, disfranchises an intelligent and independent class of county voters, does not provide the protection of the Ballot, and leaves the small, corrupt, and dependent boroughs in possession of an amount of influence which counteracts and swamps the real opinion of the country, is an insult to the people, and demands the uncompromising opposition of all true Reformers.

This was seconded by Alderman Thomas Lloyd; after which Mr. Bright delivered another of his great Reform speeches. He was followed by Mr. Scholefield, who entered his emphatic protest against the Bill. Mr. Ernest Jones endeavoured, contrary to all right and custom, to address the meeting, and created some confusion in consequence; but on the meeting deciding by a vast majority that he was not entitled to speak, he left the Hall, and the resolution was passed unanimously.

Mr. Alderman Baldwin then moved :—

That this meeting is of opinion that it is the duty of all Liberals, in and out of Parliament, in this crisis of the Reform question, to sink all sectional and personal differences, and combine in opposition to a bill which unsettles everything and settles nothing, and which, if passed into law, will produce political discontent and renewed agitation ; and this meeting re-affirms its opinion that no Reform Bill can be satisfactory which does not include a large extension of the borough and county franchise, vote by ballot, and a re-distribution of members more equally proportioned to population and property.

This was seconded by Alderman Manton, and passed by acclamation, as was also a petition, moved by Mr. J. S. Wright,

seconded by Mr. James Taylor, jun., which after having received 40,260 signatures in two days, was sent to the borough members for presentation.

The Government Bill was defeated on April 1, by a majority of 39; 291 voted for the second reading and 330 against. On April 4, Mr. Disraeli announced that the government had advised the Queen to appeal to the country, and on the 19th Parliament was prorogued preparatory to a dissolution, which speedily followed.

Birmingham immediately prepared for the coming election. A meeting of Liberals was held on April 11, at which it was resolved to form a joint committee to secure the election of Messrs. Scholefield and Bright. At a meeting in the afternoon Mr. Bright was present, and in the course of his speech expressed his earnest desire to unite with Mr. Scholefield, and passed a warm eulogy on the great business capacity of our senior member. On the same day the addresses of the two Liberal candidates were issued; they were as follows:—

Gentlemen,

Her Majesty's Ministers, defeated in their design of imposing upon Parliament as a measure of reform, a Bill which studiously avoided any lowering of the franchise in boroughs—most injuriously affected the existing rights of freeholders—and carried only to a fractional extent the needful transfer of seats from the smaller boroughs to more populous districts, at present either unrepresented, or represented insufficiently—have appealed from the decision of the House of Commons to that of the Country. Among yourselves I can have little doubt as to the result of that appeal.

In common with my honourable colleague, Mr. Bright, I gave an unhesitating vote against the Bill of the Government, and I now venture confidently to ask you to ratify that vote.

I hope and believe that, after twelve years of service, I need not enter upon any minute recapitulation of the political principles which originally recommended me to your choice. To those principles I have steadily adhered, and I am still prepared resolutely to maintain them.

I respectfully solicit, then, a renewal at your hands of the trust so long and so generously confided to me; and with grateful thanks for the kindness you have uniformly extended to me,

I am, gentlemen,
Your faithful servant,

London, 7th April 1859. WILLIAM SCHOLEFIED.

Gentlemen,

The Government of Lord Derby has advised the Queen to dissolve the Parliament because the House of Commons has rejected the Bill introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to Amend the Representation of the People. In Parliamentary language, the words "to amend" do not mean "to improve," and in the case of the Bill just rejected, I only express my honest and undoubting conviction when I say, that it would be difficult to contrive a measure more calculated to disturb and damage what we now possess of popular representation than that which the House of Commons has refused to pass. Its evident object was to lessen what remains of independence in our County Constituencies, and to give the means of utterly destroying the independence of all but the largest Boroughs,—whilst it ventured upon the dangerous experiment of condemning the great body of the industrious, or wages-receiving class, to a perpetual exclusion from the possession of the Elective Franchise. It was a measure conceived not in the spirit of a statesman, but in that of a cunning party political agent; it sought permanently to subject the people and the destinies of England to the supremacy of a class whose political triumphs are the disasters, and whose defeats are the gains, which mark the course of humanity and freedom amongst us.

Lord Derby is not content with the judgment of the House of Commons, and he appeals to the Constituencies of the United Kingdom. You will therefore be called upon to select your Representatives in the coming Parliament. I offer myself as a Candidate for your suffrages, in the belief that since I was elected in August, 1857, I have not taken any course which renders me less worthy of your confidence. On the question of Parliamentary Reform I have spoken freely; first amongst you, my Constituents, and afterwards in other large cities and towns of England and Scotland. I have spoken for a moderate but a real Reform; and more than a hundred public meetings have expressed their approval of the general propositions I have made. I am bold enough, therefore, to hope that my course will be sanctioned by you, to whose past service and patriotism the course of Reform is so greatly indebted.

Let me remind you that the fate and future of Reform do not depend on the course to be taken by particular Statesmen; parliamentary leaders, or they who affect to be such, may assist or retard the march of great questions, but public opinion as expressed by public meetings, by petitions, through the press, and at the polling, is the omnipotent influence to which the legislature must bow, and which parliamentary majorities will follow.

It is to the people themselves that I look for our answer to the appeal of Lord Derby. They can say—imperfect as is their representation now, whether little more than one million of electors are sufficient in a

population containing seven millions of men, whether it is fitting that our great cities and towns shall have a voice in the House of Commons, but a voice almost without power, by reason of the existence of some score of small boroughs necessarily without influence in everything in the country except in parliamentary divisions; and whether it is just that electors should be subject to every variety of hardship in the exercise of their right to vote, when the simple arrangement of the ballot would liberate them from insult and wrong.

To the existing constituencies the appeal is now made. Upon their verdict will depend the question whether the representation of the people in parliament shall now be made in some degree consistent with reason, with truth, and with the national interest; or whether that great object shall be obtained at some more distant day, after, it may be, years of irritating but inevitable discontent and agitation. I feel confident that you will throw your influence on the side of freedom. I wish I were more able than I am to give effect to your opinions, and more successfully to maintain your great cause. If you place me in the parliament about to be elected, I shall strive honestly to serve the country, and to uphold the character and the dignity of your great community.

I am, very faithfully yours,

JOHN BRIGHT.

Mr. P. H. Muntz was elected chairman, Messrs. Robert Wright and James Taylor jun., honorary secretaries of the committee for securing the re-election of Messrs. Scholefield and Bright.

A meeting of the Conservatives was held on the 12th, at which it was resolved to contest one of the seats; the opposition being directed against the return of Mr. Bright. Before, however, they had secured a candidate, Dr. George Bodington, of Sutton Coldfield, offered himself to the electors. His address was exceedingly long and peculiar. He was in favour of "household suffrage, but opposed to free trade; exclusive dealing in free cotton, and the restoration of the navigation laws; the maintenance of our constitution unimpaired, and repeal of the union with Ireland." On the ballot he would not insult the electors of Birmingham by intimating that they had need of it. He concluded his address by stating that he should not repeat it unless the electors of Birmingham bade him "stand forward and engage in the contest"—which the electors of Birmingham certainly did not.

At last the Conservatives found a candidate in Mr. Thomas Dyke Ackland. The list of the requisitionists to that gentleman soliciting him to allow himself to be put in nomination, included a number of hitherto accepted Liberals, but who were supposed to be frightened at what were designated the "extreme and dangerous principles of Mr. Bright." His committee displayed the same curious amalgamation of parties. Mr. Henry Van Wart was the chairman; the vice-chairmen, Mr. Samuel Thornton and Mr. W. L. Sargant; the treasurer, Mr. Sampson S. Lloyd; and the secretaries were Mr. C. T. Saunders, Mr. C. E. Mathews, and Mr. Henry Howell. On April 20, Mr. Ackland issued the following address to the electors:—

Gentlemen,

I have been invited by a numerous and respectable body of Liberal electors to become a candidate for the representation of this large town.

To be summoned at this crisis to enter the lists in such a contest is an honour of which any Englishman may be proud; I have obeyed the call without hesitation, and with no fear for the result.

I come among you as loyal Englishmen, attached to our Queen, and to the Institutions of our Country. I have the same confidence as yourselves in the benefit of free discussion, and though not personally known to many of you, I trust to you to give me a fair hearing.

I represented for ten years a Division of a great County, including important manufacturing as well as agricultural interests. I lost my seat because I voted for the Free Trade policy of the late Sir Robert Peel. Since my retirement into private life I have been actively engaged with men of all political opinions, in measures of practical and social improvement, which have brought me into close contact with the middle classes and with working men.

The rapid progress of this country since the passing of the last Reform Bill has convinced me that the time is come for carrying forward progressive measures for the better representation of all classes.

I rejoice that an extension of the County Franchise may be considered a settled question.

I am favourable to such an extension of the Franchise in Boroughs as shall admit the intelligent and responsible artisans to the electoral body.

I do not believe in finality. I wish to see such measures adopted, that every man may qualify himself, by prudence and self-improvement, to take a part in the government of the country.

Much has been said of late against aristocracy. There is an aristocracy of birth, of wealth, and of education; but there is also an aristocracy of working men, looked up to by their fellow workmen whose combined exertions are essential to the prosperity of England. None know better than they do that the strength of our free country lies in the hearty union of the *best men of all classes*—not in setting class against class.

Believing that publicity is essential to the healthy exercise of responsible duty involving the interests of others, I dread the moral risks which appear to me inseparable from the Ballot. But I abhor from my heart every species of intimidation or coercion, and all forms of undue influence.

An attached member of the Church of England; a firm and undoubting Protestant; I have always acted, and shall continue to act, to the best of my ability with perfect fairness to the members of every other religious community.

I do not adopt some of the watchwords usual at elections, because I think they are worn out, and manly-minded men are weary of unmeaning phrases. I wish to deal with facts, not names only. I am not insensible to the value of party action, when required to carry forward a truly Liberal policy, or to resist wild and revolutionary schemes.

But I appeal with confidence to men of business, and to working-men in this great seat of industry, whether party divisions, not required by any clear distinctions of policy, do not waste the time of the nation, shake confidence in public men, and hinder the onward progress of great SOCIAL AND COMMERCIAL REFORMS.

A weak government cannot carry Liberal measures, and is always enormously expensive. What the country requires is a government strong in the confidence of moderate men; strong enough to maintain a wise economy; strong enough to keep up, by well-timed expenditure, the national defences, essential as they are to the honour and security of this great empire and to lasting peace; strong enough also to attend to practical questions affecting the great masses of the population, which are always neglected when parties are struggling for political influence.

If these views find favour with this large constituency, great moral support will be thereby given to many an earnest-minded man who, with full confidence in the institutions of a free country, is labouring to advance the great cause of popular education, and the moral and social well-being of his fellow creatures.

It will be my humble but diligent endeavour, if I am elected as your representative, TO JUSTIFY THE CALL WHICH HAS BEEN MADE UPON ME, BY CONSTANT ATTENTION TO YOUR LOCAL INTERESTS, AND TO MY PUBLIC DUTIES.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
THOMAS DYKE ACKLAND.

Committee Room,
Hen and Chickens Hotel,
Birmingham, April 20th, 1859.

The contest now began in earnest; ward meetings were held every night, and often several on the same night. A Town's meeting was held on the 25th at which both the liberal candidates spoke, Mr. Ackland having declined to attend. Resolutions declaring them to be proper candidates to represent the borough, thanking them for past services, and deprecating the conduct of Mr. Ackland in "refusing to meet the men of Birmingham at a meeting convened by the mayor," were spoken to by Mr. P. H. Muntz, Thomas Lloyd, J. A. Langford, George Edmonds, James Baldwin, and W. Beddoes, and passed with the utmost enthusiasm and unanimity.

The nomination took place in the Town Hall on April 28, Mr. Scholefield being nominated by Mr. P. H. Muntz, and seconded by Mr. Caleb Lawden; Mr. Bright by Mr. Thomas Lloyd and Mr. George Edmonds; and Mr. Ackland by Mr. Van Wart and Mr. S. S. Lloyd. After Mr. Scholefield and Mr. Bright had addressed the meeting, the mayor put their names in the order in which they were proposed. For Mr. Scholefield almost every hand was held up, and it was difficult to distinguish any difference when Mr. Bright was voted for; the hands held up for Mr. Ackland were, compared with the number at the meeting, very few. The show of hands was therefore declared to be in favour of the Liberal candidates, and Mr. Van Wart demanded a poll on behalf of Mr. Ackland. The polling took place on the 29th, and on May 1 the official declaration was made by the Mayor as follows:—

For Mr. Scholefield.....4,425
For Mr. Bright 4,282
For Mr. Ackland.....1,544

Mr. Ackland did not attend at the official declaration.

Thus ended one of the liveliest contests which Birmingham witnessed since the town became a parliamentary borough in 1832. Itinerant singers sang ballads in the streets about the contest, some of which had a very large sale. The wall literature was much superior to that which usually

distinguishes, or rather disgraces, most contested elections; and some of the squibs and caricatures displayed considerable humour. The successful candidates returned thanks as follows :—

Gentlemen,

Accept my cordial thanks for the distinguished honour you have conferred upon me, by again returning me as one of your representatives in parliament.

Be assured of my earnest endeavours to justify this renewal of your confidence by a firm adherence to the great principles of peace, retrenchment and reform, so essential to the contentment and well-being of the people.

Let me not forego this opportunity of also tendering my warm and grateful acknowledgments to every member of the central committee, to the honorary secretaries, to the members of the various ward committees, and to the canvassers and others, without whose zealous and intelligent coöperation the triumphant results of the election never could have been attained.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obliged and faithful Servant,
WILLIAM SCHOLEFIELD.

Birmingham, April 30, 1859.

Gentlemen,

At the close of the contest in which you have recently been engaged, I wish to express to you how much I am sensible of your kindness to me, and how greatly I value the confidence which you have been pleased to continue to me. The cause of reform and good government has not suffered at your hands, and I will do my best that it shall not suffer in mine.

For the many personal kindnesses shown to me by you, and for the signal honour conferred upon me in selecting me again to be one of your representatives in parliament, I desire heartily and gratefully to thank you.

I am, very faithfully yours,
JOHN BRIGHT.

Rochdale, April 30, 1859.

The return of the two Liberal candidates was celebrated in every ward by a public dinner, and on the 31st of May the non-electors entertained Messrs. Scholefield and Bright at one given in the Town Hall. About 1,900 persons were present on the occasion. The chair was occupied by

Mr. J. A. Langford, and the vice-chairs by Messrs. J. A. Banks, Morley, Brittain, Raffles, Roe, and Pulford. The chairman proposed the following resolution :—

That the warmest thanks of the non-electors are due, and are hereby given to Messrs. Scholefield and Bright, for the manner in which they have unceasingly advocated the principles of reform, supported the interests of non-electors, and devoted their energies and abilities to the establishment of wise and liberal principles of government. The non-electors also desire to congratulate Messrs. Scholefield and Bright on the triumph of their principles in their recent re-election as Representatives of the borough of Birmingham.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Charles Smith, the chairman of the non-electors' committee; and admirably responded to by Messrs. Scholefield and Bright. At the conclusion of Mr. Bright's speech, Mr. Alfred Taylor proposed :—

That the best thanks of the non-electors be presented to the officers and members of the central committee; to the officers and members of the various ward committees, and to the electors generally, for the unmistakable manner in which they recorded their sense of the services of Messrs. Scholefield and Bright, in placing them at the head of the poll by so over-whelming a majority. The non-electors trust that when the electors are again called upon to exercise the right of electing their members, that Mr. Bright's Bill will have become law, and that they shall be enabled to coöperate with them at the polling booth as well as on the day of nomination.

This was seconded by Mr. Joseph Taylor, supported by Mr. George Bill, and responded to by Mr. Thomas Lloyd. In seconding the vote of thanks to the chairman, which was proposed by Mr. Scholefield, Mr. Bright said he "had never been at a meeting that had surpassed or even equalled the present one, in the good order that had been maintained, and the attention which had been paid to every speaker."

A meeting was held September 26, Mr. James Taylor, jun., in the chair, at which the Compound Householders' Act was explained, and a resolution proposed to the effect, "that all occupiers of premises paying a rental of 4s. a week should avail themselves of the Act, which entitled them to be placed on the list of borough voters."

The year 1860 opened with a great Reform Meeting at the Town Hall, which was held on January 6. Mr. T. Lloyd (the Mayor), presided, when the following resolution, moved by Alderman Baldwin, and seconded by George Edmonds, was passed :—

That the necessity of Parliamentary Reform being acknowledged by all the great political parties, and her Majesty's Government being pledged to introduce a Reform Bill during the ensuing session, it is the opinion of this meeting that any bill, to be useful to the country and satisfactory to the people, must provide for a large extension of the franchise, for vote by ballot, and for a better apportionment of members to population.

The meeting was addressed by the members for the borough, Messrs. Scholefield and Bright; after which Mr. J. S. Wright moved, and Mr. W. Radford seconded, "that a petition to the House of Commons embodying the principles of the first resolution be adopted, and entrusted to the members for presentation." A vote of thanks to Messrs. Scholefield and Bright for their invaluable services in the cause of Reform was also passed.

The annual meeting of the Birmingham Reform Association was held on January 26, at which the following report was received and adopted :—

In presenting to the members the first annual report of the association, your committee beg to state that immediately after the association was formed, the 12th of November, 1858, they met to prepare for any emergency that might arise, and place themselves in a position to coöperate with Reformers generally. An address was prepared, which besides being freely and extensively distributed in the town and neighbourhood, was sent to nearly every member of both Houses of Parliament and the principal newspapers in the kingdom. Much discussion was created by it, and several towns made applications for copies for distribution. In February your committee caused a public meeting to be held in the Town Hall, which was called by the Mayor on the requisition of 500 inhabitants. Resolutions were passed expressive of confidence in Mr. Bright, and a petition for Reform was unanimously adopted, signed by the Mayor, on behalf of the meeting, to send to Mr. Scholefield for presentation.

At the end of February the nation witnessed the anomaly of a Tory Government introducing a bill to improve the representation of the people.

The bill, when printed, was found to be unsatisfactory to all men. No reduction was made in the borough franchise, borough freeholders were to be disfranchised, and populous districts around boroughs were to be taken from the counties and attached to boroughs for Parliamentary purposes. To consider the bill, a public meeting was held on the 9th of March, in compliance with the request of nearly 700 inhabitants; the Mayor presided. The Government measure was discussed, and unanimously condemned; and your committee immediately prepared a petition to the House of Commons, praying it to reject the bill. It was signed in five days by more than 40,000 inhabitants.

On the 1st of April ministers were defeated, and a dissolution of Parliament followed: Mr. Bright was threatened with an opposition; your committee at once took the necessary precaution to secure his re-election. Tories and Whigs combined, and flattered themselves that Mr. Scholefield would aid them to defeat Mr. Bright; they deceived themselves and their candidate. Mr. Scholefield hastened to Birmingham, and on entering the committee room made the manly declaration, "let me be sacrificed rather than Mr. Bright." Happily, no sacrifice was needed. Messrs. Scholefield and Bright were returned by a majority of nearly 3,000.

In August last your committee resolved to carry out the provisions of the Compound Householders' Act, which provides that tenants paying 4s. and upwards per week (notwithstanding their rates are paid by the landlord), shall be entitled to vote. Nearly 1,700 claims were sent in to the overseers, and will be added this year to the list of voters.

Members of your committee attended the Reform Conference in London and other Reform meetings during the year.

On the 6th instant another public meeting was held in the Town Hall, called by the Mayor, at the request of 600 inhabitants; both members attended; a petition was agreed to, signed by the Mayor, which has been sent for presentation.

Lord John Russell has given notice of his intention to introduce a new bill on the 20th proximo. Your committee look forward with much anxiety for the proposed measure. It is within the special province of your association to watch carefully the introduction of such a bill, and to call the attention of the people to its provisions, and your committee leave to their successors the performance of this duty. Your committee have pleasure in stating that the receipts during the past year have amounted to £347 6s. 6d., and the payments £199 10s. 6d., leaving a balance in hand of £147 16s.

A town's meeting was held on February 22, at which resolutions in favour of Mr. Gladstone's Free Trade Budget, and the proposed French Treaty were passed. The resolutions

regretted that the largely increased expenditure rendered a higher rate of taxation necessary; and strongly disapproved of the re-imposition of the income tax without any attempt being made to mitigate its "admitted injustice." Messrs. P. H. Muntz, Alderman C. Sturge, J. S. Wright, Julius Partrige, Alderman Baldwin, Brooke Smith, and the Rev. A. O'Neill took part in the proceedings. A vote of thanks to Mr. Cobden for his distinguished services in negociating the French Treaty was also adopted. This resolution was forwarded to Mr. Cobden, who acknowledged its receipt in the following letter:—

Cannes, France, 2nd March, 1860.

Dear Sir,

I have received, with feelings of sincere gratitude, the resolution passed at a public meeting of the inhabitants of Birmingham, thanking me for the services rendered to the cause of Free Trade by the recent negociations of the French Treaty.

It must be a source of legitimate pride to a public man when his acts receive the sanction of large bodies of his countrymen; and I can unfeignedly assure you that I have felt especially gratified and honoured by this proof of the approbation of the intelligent and public-spirited community over which it is your privilege to preside.

Pray accept my thanks for the kind and friendly expressions conveyed in your letter accompanying the resolution; and

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

RICHARD COBDEN.

Thomas Lloyd, Esq., Mayor.

Mr. Gladstone's Budget provided for the repeal of the paper duty; and contrary to all modern precedent the House of Lords threatened to reject this portion of the Budget. On May 17, a meeting was held under the presidency of the Mayor, and a resolution was passed declaring the continuance of the duty to be unjust and impolitic. In reference to the conduct of the peers, the following resolution was adopted:

That this meeting is of opinion that the practice which has prevailed in the House of Lords for nearly two centuries, in abstaining from interfering with any bills connected with the revenue and taxation of the country which have passed the House of Commons, is one which cannot

be departed from without bringing the House of Lords into dangerous collision with the House which derives its authority from the direct vote of the people; and would be subversive of the sound constitutional principle, that the representatives of the people shall alone exercise the power of imposing or remitting the national taxes.

Messrs. Van Wart, J. S. Wright, J. Browett, J. Taylor, A. Ryland, R. Wright, and J. Baldwin took part in the proceedings. Notwithstanding the protest of the country against this conduct, the House of Lords, on May 21, threw out the bill by a majority of 89, the number being for, 104; against, 193. Subsequently a Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to inquire for precedents as to the power of the Lords to deal with money bills. Mr. Bright served on the Committee, and drew up the report. Resolutions were submitted to the House in pursuance of the report ultimately adopted by the Committee. On these resolutions, Mr. Bright delivered, on July 6, one of his most statesman-like speeches, in which he gave a lucid summary of the course pursued on money bills, and examined the power of the House of Lords to deal with them. This remarkable speech was closed in the following words:—

I will not enter further into this question. I am unable from physical causes to speak with clearness, and I am afraid I must have somewhat pained those who have heard me. I must, however, repeat my regret that the noble Viscount at the head of the Government has not shown more courage in this matter than he appears to me to have exhibited, and that the House of Commons has not evinced more self-respect. I fear this session may, as a consequence, become memorable as that in which, for the first time, the Commons of England has surrendered a right which for 500 years they had maintained unimpaired. I, at least, and those who act with me, will be clear from any participation in this; we shall be free from the shame which must indelibly attach to the chief actors in these proceedings. I protested against the order of reference which the noble Lord proposed, though I sat and laboured on the Committee with earnest fidelity on behalf of the House of Commons. I have felt it an honour to sit in this House up to this time, and I hope that hereafter the character of this House will not be impaired by the course which is about to be taken. I have endeavoured to show to my countrymen what I consider to be almost the treason which is about to be committed against them. I have refused to dishonour the memory

of such Members as Coke, and Selden, and Granville, and Pym ; and, if defeated in this struggle, I shall have the consolation that I have done all I can to maintain the honour of this House ; and that I have not sacrificed the interests which my constituents committed to my care.

The Government introduced another Reform Bill this session, which would have considerably extended the franchise and given a third member to Birmingham. It met with most vexatious opposition in the House of Commons, where it made but very slow progress, Lord Palmerston not being at all anxious to have it passed. On May 30, Birmingham held a town's meeting on the subject, the Mayor in the chair, at which the following resolutions were adopted :—

Moved by Alderman Baldwin, and seconded by the Rev. Jonas Lord :—

That, inasmuch as the Government Reform Bill will considerably extend the privilege of voting amongst the working classes, this meeting (whilst asserting the right to a more comprehensive measure, and especially regretting that it does not provide a larger franchise,) is of opinion that the bill is entitled to the cordial support of all friends of Parliamentary Reform.

Alderman Hawkes moved, and Mr. H. W. Tyndall seconded the next resolution :—

That this meeting having observed with apprehension and disappointment the vexatious obstacles raised by some nominal supporters, as well as by avowed opponents, to hinder the progress of the Reform Bill, in order to ensure its defeat, earnestly urges upon parliament to proceed with the same with all possible dispatch.

The third resolution, moved by Mr. Charles Smith and seconded by Mr. W. Radford, was as follows :—

That this meeting records its emphatic protest against the disparaging terms employed with reference to the industrial population by various members of both Houses of Parliament, in the course of recent debates upon the Reform Bill ; and this meeting declares that such assertions are in the highest degree unjust and undeserved, and demand the severest condemnation.

Mr. J. S. Wright then moved, and Mr. Alderman Sturge seconded the fourth resolution :—

That the present attitude of the House of Lords, and their avowed opinions on the extension of the franchise, are calculated to excite the

gravest apprehension for the fate of the Reform Bill, inasmuch as the recent rejection of an important measure of financial reform, contrary to usage, after it had passed the Commons and received the approval of the great body of the people, indicates a determination to disregard not only the wishes of the people and the decisions of the Commons, but also the repeated promises of various Governments; and this meeting therefore urges the Government to use all constitutional means to maintain the privileges of the House of Commons, and to resist any encroachment upon the liberties of the people.

Mr. Caleb Lawden proposed and Mr. W. Middlemore seconded the next resolution:—

That this meeting desires to express its continued and undiminished confidence in Messrs. Scholefield and Bright, the honoured members for this borough, and especially sympathises with Mr. Bright under the unjust imputations and cowardly attacks [loud cheers] that have from time to time been made upon him, in consequence of his fearless and talented advocacy of the cause of the people.

These resolutions were all passed unanimously; after which Mr. Bright addressed the meeting. His speech was principally directed to the recent conduct of the Lords in throwing out a money bill; and he concluded in the following words:—

I cannot believe that the people of England will let this great question rest. I cannot believe that they will allow the Cabinet of the Queen to treat this matter as of no importance. I cannot believe that the House of Commons, though there is so large a minority in union with the majority of the Lords, have so degenerated from past times that they will calmly sit still and allow this great inherent right to be wrested for evermore from their hands. And of this I am sure, that Birmingham, to whom I speak to-night, will be true to its ancient character and to its ancient worth; that it will speak with no uncertain voice in favour of those rights and liberties which it has always prized so highly, and which, not a generation past, it made such magnanimous efforts to obtain.

Mr. Scholefield was unable to attend this meeting, but the following letter from him was read:—

My dear Sir,

Having but recently heard of the day fixed for the proposed Reform Meeting, and having unfortunately previously made engagements for our short Whitsun holiday, in reference to some urgent private business, which had already, owing to my committee duties, been too long delayed, I am

sorry that I cannot, as I could have wished, attend on Wednesday. May I ask you kindly to offer my excuses to those present? The question of Reform acquires double significance from the recent proceedings in the House of Lords. Never, within my time at least, has the House of Commons been called upon to consider a state of things so momentous in a constitutional sense, as that which has just arisen. I have no desire to anticipate the decision of the committee which has been appointed to examine into precedents; that committee is unexceptionable in its composition, and I think the Government consulted only what was due to the gravity and solemn importance of the circumstances, when they moved for its appointment. But I cannot help seeing that, whatever may be the report of that committee, formidable difficulties, which it will require all the prudence and moderation of our best and wisest statesmen to overcome, are inevitable. If the report be adverse to the recent decision, the firmness and patriotism of the House of Commons will be taxed to the utmost to maintain its privileges. If, on the other hand, the report should show that the House of Lords has done only what it had a technical right to do, then it is time that that right, so rashly used, should be taken away, and that the Lords should learn that the spirit of the Constitution invests the Commons with undivided control over every question of taxation, and that the people are ready to make any sacrifice to preserve that control intact. The more grave the events which threaten us, the more urgent is the need for a House of Commons which shall truly represent public opinion, and the more pressing is the necessity for that Reform in the representation which we are now seeking, and which is the smallest which the people are willing to accept.

I am, my dear Sir,
Yours truly,
WILLIAM SCHOLEFIELD.

The Reform Bill of 1860 never became an Act of Parliament. It was discussed for six nights, extending over a period of two months; on the 3rd of May it was read a second time without a division; and ordered to be committed on the 4th of June. It was again debated for six nights; and on the 11th, Lord John Russell informed the House of Commons that the Government intended to withdraw the Bill. Thus terminated one of the most solemn farces in the history of legislation.

THE QUEEN'S HOSPITAL.

THE readers of the preceding volumes in which are recorded a "Century of Birmingham Life," must have been frequently delighted with the works of charity which have distinguished the history of the town. This spirit of charity has never failed. Whenever distress had to be relieved, the benevolence of the inhabitants has never been appealed to in vain; and this benevolence at the commencement of the present decade, manifested itself in another of the many noble works of charity in which the spirit of a true and practical Christianity has been so frequently displayed. The history of the QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, first advocated in 1839, is a gratifying sequel to that of the General Hospital, which was commenced in 1765.

On the 11th of November 1839, Mr. William Sands Cox addressed a letter to the Rev. James Thomas Law, Chancellor of the Diocese of Lichfield, on the importance of establishing, in connection with the Royal School of Medicine and Surgery at Birmingham, a Clinical Hospital. Mr. Law responded to this appeal in the most effective manner, by contributing £1,000 rent charge on land in Bath Row; and that eminent philanthropist, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Wilson Warneford also presented £1,000 towards the proposed object. On the 15th of February, 1840, the question was brought before the Council of the Royal School of Medicine and Surgery, and it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of the Rev. Chancellor Law, seconded by John Kaye Booth, M.D., "that a hospital is essentially necessary in connection with the Royal School of Medicine and Surgery, in order to the practical and efficient education of the students." The proposal was liberally responded to by the public, and funds

were subscribed sufficiently large to justify the friends of the hospital in deciding to build. The foundation stone was laid by Earl Howe, on June 18th, 1840; and by permission of the Queen, who generously became a patron of the charity, it was named the Queen's Hospital.

The work progressed rapidly, and during the year 1841 the newspapers reported almost every week fresh contributions either of money or beds. On August 2nd, *Aris's Gazette* announced the completion of the building in the following brief paragraph :—

We have gratification in being enabled to state that the Queen's Hospital is completed. At a numerous meeting of the Committee of Council, held on Thursday last, Dr. Johnstone, president, in the chair, it was unanimously determined to commence this day the dispensary and home visiting departments. This arrangement will be immediately followed by the admission of acute cases and accidents. The midwifery department will also be proceeded with, according to the original design. The weekly board will be held at the Royal School of Medicine, in Paradise Street, every Wednesday, at twelve o'clock ; all the boards of the hospital will be open to every governor, and the proceedings of every board will be registered and signed by the chairman.

On the 23rd of the same month the following paragraph was published :—

We have pleasure in stating that the Queen's Hospital in this town will be opened next month for the reception of patients. The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of the Diocese has most handsomely consented to preach a sermon on the occasion.

John Wright, Esq., and Mrs. Wright, of Sparkbrook House, have presented, for the use of the above institution, ten beds and bedding, in addition to a magnificent benefaction of £50. Lady Peel, Lady Throckmorton, Miss Piercy, of Warley Hall, Mrs. Scholefield, Mrs. Cox, and Mrs. W. H. Osborn, have also each presented a bed complete. We understand that it is intended to affix the name of the donor to the head of each bed.

On September 6, it was announced that his Royal Highness Prince Albert had signified his intention of presenting a donation of £50.

The first medical and surgical staff was elected on July 21. The following is the list:—Honorary Physicians, Edward

Johnstone, M.D.; John Kaye Booth, M.D. Honorary Surgeon: Edward Townsend Cox. Physicians: John Birt Davies, M.D.; John Percy, M.D.; John Barratt Melson, M.D. Surgeons: William Sands Cox, George B. Knowles, Langston Parker.

On October 25, we read that—yesterday morning, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese visited the Queen's Hospital in Bath Row, and having inspected the various departments, expressed himself highly pleased with the building and general arrangement of the establishment.

There are a few events in the history of the Hospital which demand special notice. In the year 1847, the artisans of the town instituted a Penny Subscription in aid of the fund. The result of their exertions has been perpetuated by a tablet in the vestibule of the Hospital, which bears the following inscription :—

This tablet records the unexampled exertions of the artisans of Birmingham, by which the noble donation of £905 1s. 3d., raised by penny subscriptions in the year 1847, was paid over to the funds of the charity. John Palmer, chairman; Thomas Phillips, treasurer; John Talbot, secretary; W. Whitehead, W. Littlehales, A. Knight, F. Gosling, E. Keeling, S. Basnett, H. Sansum, I. Best, B. Edmonds, S. Bradley, W. Timmins, committee.

Another tablet records the 'gratuitous services, in the year 1848, of that unequalled musician and artiste, Madlle. Jenny Lind, by whose noble exertions the sum of £1,070 was realised as a free contribution to the funds of the institution.'

In 1856, the famous Aston Fêtes were given in aid of the funds of the two hospitals. In the vestiblue of the hospital we read :—

This tablet records that a committee of manufacturers and tradesmen of Birmingham projected and carried out, on their own responsibility, the two *fêtes champètres*, which took place at Aston Hall and Park, on 28th day of July and the 15th day of September, 1856, in aid, and towards the support and improvement of the Queen's and General Hospitals of the town, by which they realised, after the payment of £1,663 3s. 2d. for expenses, the sum of £5,054 12s. 4d., which was equally divided between the institutions. John Walsh Walsh, chairman; John Cornforth, vice-chairman; Ambrose Biggs and Joseph Thomas Collins, hon. secretaries of the Fêtes Committees.

Committee :—J. F. Richardson, P. Shuttleworth, H. Cornforth, R. Davenport, L. Middleton, H. Davenport, H. Merideth, J. Banfield, G. H. St. Clair, J. Tonks, J. Clarkson, J. Branston, jun., J. S. Cockings, M. H. Simpson, W. Clements, W. C. Stockley, J. Stinton, J. C. Onions, J. Moffatt, W. R. Hughes, W. Collins, G. Newbold, J. C. Pirani, J. Wareing, J. Taylor, T. Turner, J. Kemp, G. Doughty, W. Batt, J. Bate, T. Hall, E. J. Cox, R. Free, G. P. Tye, B. Tilley, J. Onions, A. Knight, E. Atkins, R. Tookey, A. Wivell, G. Bowker, T. Parker.

T. R. T. Hodgson, Mayor.

In 1859 the first periodical collection in all the churches and chapels in aid of the local charities was made, the proceeds being devoted to the General Hospital; the following year the collection was made on behalf of the Queen's Hospital. The week before this latter collection was made, an admirable history of the Queen's Hospital appeared in the *Midland Counties' Herald.* This excellent summary, which was attributed to the pen of Mr. Alfred Davidson, an antiquarian, and the author of "*Aston Hall and the Holte Family,*" is as follows :—

No inhabitant of Birmingham or its vicinity can have forgotten the noble effort made in November, 1859 on behalf of the General Hospital, when, by the simultaneous collections, the sum of £5,000 was spontaneously raised to relieve that institution from the heavy debt by which its operations were impeded. An appeal, as will be also borne in mind, from the Weekly Board of the Queen's Hospital for a share in the proceeds of the collections was withdrawn, in deference to the general feeling, but those gentlemen at the same time expressed a hope that the claims of the institution they represented would not ultimately be allowed to suffer by the course they felt it their duty to pursue. An arrangement followed, by virtue of which an annual collection was decided on, the entire proceeds of which will, this year, be appropriated to the benefit of the Queen's Hospital.

As last year we published a minute account of the sister charity, so now we feel it our duty to lay before our readers some particulars explanatory of the working of the institution on behalf of which public sympathy will be appealed to from, we would fain hope, all the pulpits of our town and neighbourhood on Sunday week, the 28th instant. Much of what we have to say will be familiar to professional gentlemen and others conversant with public institutions, but as the great majority of our readers are not acquainted with such details, we make no apology for describing them somewhat fully. Our observations are the result of

minute personal examination and multifarious enquiries within the hospital walls, in addition to an inspection of official printed documents, and such of the more private records of the establishment as bear upon the treatment of patients. Our examination, we may add, has been throughly independent of official control; our conversations with the patients have taken place in private; all enquiries have been answered with the utmost readiness by the staff; and every part of the extensive range of buildings has been thrown open to our inspection.

To William Sands Cox, Esq. is due the merit of originating the Queen's Hospital. In November, 1839, he first brought the matter formally before the public in a letter addressed to the Rev. Chancellor Law. Previously to that date Mr. Cox had been labouring for fifteen years in the realisation of his design of forming a school of medicine and surgery for Birmingham and the Midland counties, and he had long been deeply impressed with the indispensible necessity of adequate hospital instruction as an essential feature of medical education. Dr. Warneford, immediately on the publication of Mr. Cox's letter, contributed the munificent donation of £1,000 in its support, as a mark "of his estimation of Mr. Cox's friendship and kindness, and of the benefits of his solicitude and professional experience and skill so kindly extended to him," and £1,000 in the following year also. These donations and others to the Queen's College were given in some measure in lieu of fees, Mr. Sands Cox having professionally attended the doctor (in conjunction with George Moore, a student of the college,) for upwards of seventeen years, and having declined to receive *honoraria* from that good man. In June, 1840, the foundation stone was laid by Earl Howe on a peculiarly salubrious and eligible site, in Bath Row; and the building was denominated "the Queen's" from the circumstance of her Most Gracious Majesty having granted her patronage to the institution, and her permission that it might be so styled. Her Majesty the Queen Dowager also became patron, and his Royal Highness Prince Albert president. The building was completed within a year of the laying of the foundation stone, and on the 24th of October, 1841, the wards were formally opened by the Bishop of the Diocese, accommodation being provided for 130 patients. Previous to the opening, seventy beds had been presented by friends of the charity. To trace minutely the details of its history, however, would occupy too much of the space at our disposal. We therefore pass them by, and proceed to a brief description of the plan of the buildings.

The hospital proper consists of a front elevation, facing Bath Row, and two wings, the Victoria and Adelaide—the one looking into the rectory grounds, and the other flanked by a narrow private way, the prospect in every direction being cheerful, and the situation sheltered regard being had to the elevated site. In the rear is a lawn of consi-

derable extent, and beyond this is a spacious detached building for fever cases and other contagious diseases : this branch of the hospital will contain forty beds. It is bounded at the back by the Worcester canal.

When the hospital was first opened, accommodation was provided for 130 beds only ; but by the erection of the detached wards in 1845, and the extension of the wings in 1859, 180 patients could now be provided for, if the wards were fully furnished, and adequate funds were at the disposal of the weekly board. The number of beds fitted up at present is 140. Other improvements, essential to the well-working of the institution, have also been made from time to time, such as the enlargement of the surgery, dispensary, and operating-room, the setting apart of a small chapel, and the addition of warm baths in connexion with each of the larger wards.

The main building is four stories in height. The basement contains a sitting-room for the medical in-door staff, matron's office, store-rooms, cooking and other kitchens, and larder. The first floor is occupied by the secretary's office, the entrance hall, (from which two noble flights of steps lead to the wards,) physicians' and surgeons' reception-rooms, patients' waiting-rooms, dispensary and dispenser's apartments, junior resident surgeon's apartments, and male accident ward. At the extremity of the wing a new chapel (accessible through the male accident ward,) is in course of completion. A handsome stained window of three lights—subject, CHRIST healing the sick—has been recently presented by Mr. Jackson, of Bath Row ; and a private committee has undertaken to provide the fittings and decorations necessary for the conduct of divine service. On the second floor are placed on the one side the matron's apartments and wards for female patients ; and on the other, the house surgeon's room, and the male patients' wards ; but each side of the building is completely separated from the other. The third floor is entirely occupied with wards. Each nurse is provided with a separate apartment adjoining the ward under her care ; and a warm and shower bath, water closet, and lavatory, are also attached to each ward. The main building contains six principal and four smaller wards capable of holding 140 beds, and the detached edifice four wards, with the like number of rooms for single cases, and will accommodate forty patients. In the basement story of this portion of the establishment, the washing and drying rooms are located.

The domestic department is immediately under the superintendance of the matron, a lady of seven years' experience in one of the largest London hospitals ; and the various in-door departments are under the general superintendence of the resident secretary, who is responsible to the governors for the rules and regulations relating to each being carefully carried out. To this gentleman (Mr. D. Malins, jun.) we have to express our acknowledgments for the courtesy displayed by him, and the facilities afforded us in our enquiries.

The medical staff consists of three physicians and an assistant physician, three honorary surgeons, three surgeons, and an assistant surgeon; and two district surgeon-accoucheurs who attend midwifery patients at their own homes. The whole of the medical officers are elected by the governors in general meeting assembled. The resident officers are a secretary and general superintendent, a house surgeon, a junior house surgeon, a dispenser and matron, all of whom are responsible to the general committee.

The physicians and surgeons, as in similar institutions, attend in turns weekly, and visit, in addition, those cases admitted by them during their week of attendance, so that they are constantly engaged in the discharge of their onerous duties. The hospital is never under any circumstances left without the presence of a properly qualified medical gentleman, so that any case of emergency receives attention instantly it is admitted. If a serious operation should be found necessary, the whole of the staff would be summoned, and in the shortest possible space of time a consultation would be held; but if the life of a patient were endangered by delay, the resident officers would undertake the responsibility of acting. The duties of the house surgeon are of a very important nature. He is required, in addition to the performance of minor surgical operations, to go through the respective wards between eight and nine in the morning, and between six and eight in the evening, and to make a written report of the state of each important case, and forward the same to the physicians and surgeons; to admit accidents and acute medical cases; to exercise unremitting superintendence as to the accuracy with which medicines are made up and administered, and to keep the drug stock book; to enter the orders of the physicians and surgeons for wine, &c., with the precise dates and quantity ordered, as also the date when any increase or diminution has taken place, so as to check the account kept in the diet book; to prepare the daily diet list; to deliver to the weekly board lists of patients received into the house during the previous week, together with such as are to be discharged by order of the medical officers, and also of such as have been in the house two months. He is also required to take special care of the instruments and other appliances of the hospital, so that they may be always ready for use; and to see that the respective duties of the nurses are correctly and properly performed, and to report any default of conduct.

The patients, as far as possible, are classified, the medical cases (internal diseases) being separated from the surgical ones, (external disorders and casualties.) Two sets of nurses—day and night—are employed, so that the subjects of their attention are never left unwatched, and supernumeraries are engaged when required. The permanent nursing staff numbers fourteen individuals.

The diet table is comprised under six heads :—Extra, ordinary, broth, milk, fish, and fever diet. The following are the extra and the ordinary diets :—

Extra Diet.—Breakfast.—One pint of tea and a quarter of a pint of milk. Dinner.—Four days, 12oz. of meat, roasted, (weighed with the bone, before it is dressed,) and half a pound of potatoes. Three days the same quantity of meat, boiled ; 12oz. of bread, two pints of beer to men, and one pint and a half to women, daily. Supper—One pint of gruel and a quarter of a pint of milk.

Ordinary Diet.—Breakfast.—One pint of tea and a quarter of a pint of milk. Dinner.—One half the meat allowed for extra diet, and half a pound of potatoes. Supper.—One pint of gruel and a quarter of a pint of milk. Twelve ounces of bread daily.

The calculation refers to meat in an undressed state. We are informed, that in addition to the table, that 100lbs. of raw beef and mutton will produce, boiled, 60lbs. to 62lbs. when dressed and carved ; and that 100lbs. of beef, roasted, will produce 51lbs. only ; so that in round numbers, an extra meat diet, roasted, is 6oz., and boiled, 8oz., while an ordinary one is about 3oz. roasted, and 4oz. boiled.

It may be useful for purposes of comparison to re-publish the dietary table of the General Hospital, from which it will be seen how nearly identical is the ordinary diet of the two institutions. The following is the dietary table of the General Hospital :—

A loaf of bread, weighing 12oz., is served to each patient daily.

Breakfast.—Each patient one pint of milk.

Dinner.—Full diet, for both men and women, consists of 4oz. of roast beef on Sunday and Wednesday ; 4oz. of boiled beef on Monday and Friday ; 4oz. of boiled mutton on Tuesday ; and 4oz. of roast mutton on Thursday and Saturday ; with 8 oz. of potatoes daily.

House diet, for both men and women, consists of 3oz. of meat daily, in the same order as full diets, with 8oz. of potatoes.

Mutton diet, for both men and women, consists of 3oz. of mutton daily, either as a chop, or roast or boiled, with 8oz. of potatoes.

Low diet consists of 8oz. of rice pudding and one pint of broth daily.

Supper.—Each patient one pint of gruel or broth.

Extra.—Light pudding, chickens, fish, eggs, milk, arrowroot, beef tea, beer, ale, wines, spirits, tea, and coffee.

A Diet Book, we may add, is kept at the Queen's Hospital, and arranged in a tabular form, and so systematic in its plan as to show at a glance the diet supplied to any patient. This record has been in use from the opening of the institution, and is stated to be one of the most complete of its kind in the kingdom.

The matron is responsible for carrying out the directions contained in the diet sheets, and she superintends the carving ; the nurses, with any

of the patients who may be able to assist, conveying the rations to the various wards. A dietary table is hung up in every ward, and each patient is informed when extras are ordered, so that every effort is made to ensure compliance with the directions of the medical officers, whose authority to prescribe is practically unlimited. In order still further to enforce due attention to the comforts of the patients, two visitors are appointed in turn, whose duty it is to examine and report upon the state of every part of the house and premises ; to ascertain if the officials are engaged in the regular discharge of their duties ; to see that the beds are in proper condition ; to enquire of the patents whether they are perfectly satisfied with the attendance of the medical and other officers, or whether they have any reason to complain of inattention or neglect ; and generally to make any observations requisite. Their reports are signed in the visitors' books, and an inspection of these shows that the duty is not merely formal. Despite the utmost vigilance of any House Committee, diseased potatoes and poor milk will occasionally find admittance to a hospital as well as a private dwelling, but in the one case, as in the other, a remedy is speedily applied. We conversed privately with several of the patents—men, women, and childen—and with one exception, all expressed themselves in grateful terms as to the attention and treatment they received. The excepted person intimated an opinion that an addition to the ordinary diet would, in that particular case, be acceptable.

The whole of the wards are lofty and well ventilated, and present a cheerful aspect. Somewhat of a home feeling was also apparent in the comfortable fire sides, around the hearths of which some of the patents were seated. We were particularly struck with the cheerful aspect of the children ; one merry little fellow, of about three years, who had undergone an operation of the foot, being especially lively. The proportion of these juveniles appeared very considerable, but they bore the tedium of confinement admirably, and their demeanour fully proved their opinion of the treatment they received.

The friends of patients are allowed admission on three afternoons of the week, from two till four ; but in answer to an enquiry whether the rule was relaxed in cases not dangerous, we were informed that permission was occasionally granted where earnestly desired, and an instance in point came under our notice. We learned also that many of the female patients render great service to such of their fellow-sufferers as are deficient of under clothing, by making garments of calico furnished from stock kept in the house.

The spiritual interests of the inmates are under the care of a chaplain, who performs one full Sunday service, and attends on stated occasions during the week. Where the attendance of any other clergyman or minister is desired, a standing regulation provides for the request being complied with—in cases of urgency, on the instant.

The number of in-patients during the year ending June 24, 1860, was 1,273 ; and of out-patients, 10,687, making a total of 11,960 registered on the books of the institution, who received assistance in sickness. "It must, however, be borne in mind, (as stated in the report for 1859,) that the numbers registered always represent a minimum, for many patients are prescribed for and receive medicine, who unavoidably escape registration ; and many hundreds of cases of minor accidents are brought to the hospital, of which no record can be kept.

The patients admitted during the last three years (ending the 24th of June respectively) were :—

	In.	*Out.*	*Total.*
In 1858	1,437	10,521	11,958
In 1859	1,106	8,986	10,092
In 1860	1,273	10,687	11,960
	3,816	30,194	34,010

A comparison with previous years shows that the benefits of the hospital have been extended in a most extraordinary degree to out patients. In 1850, the number of this class was 4,470, and in 1854, 4,171 ; while in the three years noted above, the enormous multitude of 34,010 persons—that is an average of $1\frac{1}{4}$ new patients every hour, night and day, during that term—have been admitted. This fact speaks conclusively as to the estimation in which the institution is held, and the wide field embraced in its operations. We forbear to comment on this ; our readers can imagine for themselves the magnitude of the suffering which must have been alleviated by unwearied benevolence like this. We would also place prominently on record the fact that though the duration of an in-patient ticket extends to but five weeks, so long as the probability of effecting a cure exists the patient is retained ; though, as is necessary, every care is taken to guard against the abuse of this important privilege.

The length to which our remarks have already extended precludes many minor details of interest. We may observe, however, that the hospital is under the entire control of a council who meet every Friday, and that all governors are entitled to be present. The order of business is as follows :—Discharge of patients, minutes of last week read, medical and surgical officer's daily attendance book examined, the weekly report, chaplain's, visitors', secretary's, house, pharmaceutical, finance, and collector's reports read ; accident admission and discharge books examined ; special business. The committee have full power to frame bye-laws for the internal management.

The institution has received from time to time many substantial proofs of public gratitude. The cost of the extension of the main building and the erection of the fever wards have been defrayed by

extraordinary contributions ; while the exertions of the Artizans' Committee, the Aston Fêtes Committee, and the liberality of Madlle. Jenny Lind, as well as others, have materially benefitted the charity. Nor should the generosity of the medical staff be forgotten, who in addition to their eminently valuable services, have presented fees to the amount of several thousands of pounds in aid of the funds. By a Royal charter of incorporation, the hospital is able to hold, notwithstanding the Act of Mortmain, real property to the amount of £2,500 per annum, a privilege not possessed by any other provincial hospital.

To carry on the work of mercy which we have described, an annual income of more than £4,000 is necessary. To meet this large expenditure about £2,000 are realised from subscriptions and interest of investments, leaving the balance to be supplied by the benevolence of the public and from any contingencies that may arise. The debt in 1858 had attained the serious amount of £2,403, last year it advanced to £3,200, and at the present time the council have to grapple with a deficiency of £4,300 ; namely, £2,800 of actual debt, and £1,500 due to the Investment Fund, which the exigencies of the passing hour have compelled them to make use of.

Such, then, is the case we lay before our readers in anticipation of the coming appeal, and most emphatically do we commend it to their support. The wards of a hospital are not places of public exhibition, and therefore must obviously be inaccessible except to those whose duty calls them to enter ; but if all who read these lines could see what we have seen, and make the rigorous examination we have made, they would retire from the task with the full conviction at which we have arrived. Let each one, then, grasp these two simple facts :—

1st.—That 12,000 cases were relieved last year, 5,000 of which were accidents and urgent medical cases, and therefore requiring no recommendation ; and

2nd.—That £4,000 must be raised at the coming collection, if this good work of healing the sick is to be continued.

Of the success of the appeal, after the noble response of last year in a like cause, we will not for a moment doubt. The duty is incumbent on all, and all without exception will discharge it. On Sunday, the 28th day of this present month of October, therefore, we confidently believe that an answer in the highest degree worthy of those who have wrought so nobly in the cause of charity heretofore will be given to the call for help on behalf of the Queen's Hospital.

The collection was made on the day appointed, and the sum of £3,433 6s. 1d. was obtained.

At the weekly Board, held on December 20, 1860, the following address of condolence to the Queen, on the death of the Prince Consort, was adopted :—

"To Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland.

"May it please your Majesty—

"We the undersigned, the Council of the Queen's Hospital, in your town of Birmingham, venture to approach your most gracious Majesty at this sad season of your affliction, with sentiments of profound respect and humble sympathy, and to offer our heartfelt condolences on the heavy and irreparable loss sustained by your Majesty in the death of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort.

"The grief which we, in common with your Majesty's loyal subjects, feel on this mournful occasion, is augmented by the reflection that in his Royal Highness we lament one peculiarly connected with ourselves, his Royal Highness, in accordance with his well-known zeal to forward every undertaking which had for its object the benefiting of any class of your Majesty's subjects, having honoured us by filling, for the space of nineteen years, the office of president of our hospital, founded under the immediate auspices of your most gracious Majesty and his Royal Highness. We venture to assure your Majesty that we shall not cease to offer our heartfelt prayers that the same gracious Providence who has seen fit, in His inscrutable wisdom, to inflict this heavy blow on your Majesty and the nation at large, will, in His mercy, support you under your present bereavement, and lighten those pangs of remembrance which must necessarily follow the loss of one so closely united, and who has been so untimely removed.—(Signed by) Walter J. B. Scott (Chairman), William Sands Cox, John Ratcliff, John Suckling, Isaac Trow, Edward T. Cox, T. Upfil, Richard Gibson Reeves, J. H. Hopkins, John Cornforth, Robert Fletcher, Jacob Phillips, Samuel J. Horton, Richard Parry, J. W. McCardie, Ambrose Biggs, and David Malins, jun."

In the report of 1860-1 we read :—

Since the last meeting the new buildings have been begun, and comprise complete arrangements for the entire separation of the out-patients from the in-patients, so as to add most materially to the comfort and quietude, and to the regularity of the supply of medical appliances to the patients of the latter department. Four additional wards have been opened, by which the cubic feet allowed to each bed have been increased, and a more systematic classification of the patients effected; the numerous and most distressing cases of burns and similar accidents being removed to the detached building. In consequence of these alterations your Committee of Council have been enabled to offer more suitable accommodation for the house surgeon, the matron, the junior resident medical officers, and dispenser. A chapel for the patients has also been completed, and opened by an impressive sermon, by the Rev. Dr. Miller. A stained glass window, of chaste

design ("Christ healing the Sick,") has been generously presented by your townsman, Mr. John Jackson. These extensive alterations and additions have been accomplished without any demands on the funds of the charity, the sum for their completion having been raised in a novel manner, under the auspices of her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, by their founder, whose services are thus recorded on a marble tablet placed in the Chapel:—"This tablet records that the chapel and additional wards were erected at a cost of £1,600, raised in penny postage stamps by William Sands Cox, F.R.S., the founder; including donations from her Majesty Queen Victoria, £100; his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, £25; Miss Burdett Coutts, £25; Robert Derry, £100; Mrs. Brown, £50; Henry Williams, £50; Joseph Guest (Dudley,) £200; Messrs. Chance, £50. John Bateman, architect; W. Matthews, contractor." In this division of the report, your committee feel called upon to acknowledge the great obligation under which Mr. William Sands Cox has, by his indefatigable and unwearied exertions again placed the Hospital.

In June, 1863, Mr. Cox reminded the committee that his tenure of office of senior surgeon of the hospital, which he had held since its foundation, had expired in accordance with the fundamental law of the charity.

The following is an extract from the minutes of the weekly board, held in the same month:—

It having been intimated by Mr. Sands Cox that the second period of ten years for which he was elected to the office of surgeon has now expired:—Resolved, that this board feels itself unable adequately to express to that gentleman its grateful thanks for his unwearying, self-denying, and successful labours for the past twenty years as founder and senior surgeon of the charity, by which great benefits have been conferred on the suffering poor of the town and district.

On the 10th of July, Mr. Cox was unanimously appointed consulting surgeon to the Hospital, the highest honour the committee had in their power to bestow.

In 1863 the congregational collections which were in aid of the funds of the Queen's Hospital, produced the sum of £3,293 5s. 0d. In 1866 they reached £4,133 2s. 10d., and in 1869, £4,468 19s. 2d.; so that the charity has obtained from this source, in four collections, no less than £15,332 13s. 1d. In 1866, the hospital received a donation of £200, part of the profit arising out of the Working Men's Exhibition.

In 1863, Mr. David Malins resigned the office of secretary, which he had held for five years, and Mr. William Akers Edwards was elected in his place.

In 1867 the committee entered into an agreement for the purchase of the house and grounds of St. Martin's rectory, adjoining the hospital, which necessitated the withdrawal of investments to the amount of £4,500.

In July, 1868, Mr. W. A. Edwards resigned, and Mr. H. C. Burdett was appointed secretary and general superintendent, after careful examination of eighty-six candidates.

The next great event in the history of the Queen's Hospital is the working men's successful effort for the extension of the charity. In the report of the committee for 1868, the following paragraph appeared :—

> On a motion by Mr. Sampson Gamgee, representing the very inadequate accommodation in the out-patient department, a special committee was appointed to enquire into the matter. The necessity of reconstructing that department had no sooner been made apparent, than a number of foremen and artizans tendered an offer of assistance, through Mr. Gamgee, to raise the necessary funds by subscription amongst the working classes. This offer was gratefully accepted by your committee, and the best results are anticipated from the coöperation of the working classes in the great work of hospital administration, of the benefits of which their members in distress are the most fitting recipients.

Throughout the year 1868, Mr. Sampson Gamgee, one of the honorary surgeons of the hospital, had been considering how best to provide for the extension of the charity, and conceived the idea of enlisting the working classes in the good work. After consulting with some of his friends on the subject, he invited a number of leading artisans and the heads of some of the principal manufactories to a meeting at his house, and having laid his plans before them, solicited their coöperation. The plan was approved, and the coöperation cheerfully and enthusiastically accorded. On January 16, 1869, the provisional committee then formed convened a public meeting of working men in the Town Hall, under the presidency of Mr. George Dawson. Mr. Gamgee fully explained his proposal; Mr. Hands, Mr. W. Radford,

Mr. H. Bishop, Mr. J. A. Langford, and Mr. Charles Hibbs spoke in support of the undertaking; resolutions approving it were passed, and a large committee, with power to add to their number, was elected, to carry them out. At an early meeting of the committee, the following officers were appointed:— Chairman, Mr J. Sampson Gamgee, Esq., F.R.S. (Edin.); Vice-Chairman, Mr. Charles Hibbs; Treasurers and Bankers, the Birmingham Joint Stock Banking Company (Limited); Trustees, George Dixon, Esq., M.P., and Thomas Avery, Esq., ex-Mayor; Auditor, Howard S. Smith, Esq., Accountant; Cashiers, Mr. William Radford and Mr. Henry Hadley; Secretary, Mr. Robert McRae.

The gigantic task which the committee had undertaken was begun with energy; and at a meeting held on August 3, 1869, the following report of the progress made was presented:—

Six months expiring this evening since the first moneys were paid into this fund, it has been thought desirable to review the progress made. This committee was appointed, by unanimous resolutions, at a public meeting of the working classes, held in the Town Hall, on January 16, under the presidency of Mr. George Dawson. At the first meeting of the committee, held January 19th, your chairman was appointed, and it was proposed by Mr. Green, president of the Trades Council, that this committee should have a paid secretary, and that he should be a member of the working classes. After very careful deliberation, it was resolved that the secretary be paid thirty shillings per week, the chairman carrying that proposition by his casting vote, against another that the salary be thirty-five shillings per week. Mr. Robert McRae was appointed secretary; and it is but an act of justice to your only paid officer to place on record, that his duties have been discharged with complete efficiency. Your vice-chairman having been appointed, a sub-committee was deputed to draw up the appeal to the working classes, stating the objects of this movement and the plan on which it was proposed to carry it out. After approval, 7,000 copies of the appeal were printed and circulated. At the second meeting of the committee, held the 27th January, the preliminary financial arrangements were concluded in the appointment of Messrs. Radford and Hadley as cashiers; the Birmingham Joint-Stock Banking Company as treasurers; Mr. Howard S. Smith, auditor; and G. Dixon, Esq., M.P., and Thomas Avery, Esq., ex-Mayor, trustees. It was subsequently resolved that no expenses be incurred except by resolu-

tion of this committee ; that no moneys be paid except by order on the trustees, and that such order be made by resolution at a general committee meeting, and signed by the chairman of the meeting and by the secretary, and two members present when the order was resolved upon. All accounts to be made up to the last Tuesday in every month, and the auditor's report published. The first payments to the credit of this fund were made on the 3rd of February. Since that date the sum of £864 3s. 8½d. has been received, and after payment of £138 17s. 4d. for preliminary and current expenses, the bank holds £725 6s. 4d. in the name of the trustees, the cashiers having 2s. 8d. in hand. Our published balance-sheets give a detailed account of the sums just mentioned ; and the account books and minute-book of the fund, on the table before you, are at all times open to the inspection, not only of every member of this committee and of the smallest subscriber, but of every individual of the community who takes sufficient interest in the movement to inquire personally into its management. Of the total sum received, £87 0s. 4½d. has been contributed, under the head of "Fund in Aid," by gentlemen and others not belonging to the working classes, the latter having subscribed £777 3s. 4d. Availing itself of the power to add to its numbers given to this committee at the time it was publicly constituted, it now includes 311 members. Bodies of workpeople below 200 have a right to elect one representative on the General Committee ; two when above 200. Additional members have been freely elected, so as to give to this body a really representative character, and invest those who contribute to the funds with full power in controlling the expenditure. Of the 211 works represented on this committee, 163 have paid in, and are still for the most part continuing to do so. Forty-eight of the works represented have not yet sent their contributions ; but many of them have commenced collecting. Not a single week has passed without new works paying in ; and it is well ascertained that the collecting books and cards in circulation have on them considerable sums This fund is peculiar in that no notice is taken of contributions promised or in progress ; credit being only given for moneys actually paid to the cashiers. On the other hand, as cash is paid for every liability within the month during which it is incurred, the debit side is charged with the expenses of promoting the movement, and with the cost of stock, in the shape of books, collecting cards, &c., of which several thousands are out, besides the current working charges. The preliminary expenses incurred in meetings, printing, and advertising, before a shilling was received, amounted to £27 3s. 3d. ; and besides the large stock of books and cards we have in circulation worth upwards of £10, we have new stock in hand ready for issue, worth at cost price, £17 10s. These three sums jointly amount to £54 13s 3d., and if this be deducted from the £138 17s. 4d., which represents the expenditure in the last balance

sheet, a fair estimate will be formed of the working expenses. It is only just to the cashiers to record, that in paying the accounts they have saved £6 10s. 9d. by discounts obtained for cash, although the liabilities incurred were chiefly for amounts fixed at the minimum, after tender. In the early stages of the movement it was deemed prudent to err, if at all, on the side of excessive publicity. Some may think that the appeals stating the objects and plan of the movement, and the balance sheets recording its progress, have been printed and circulated with prodigal liberality. While doing full justice to those who may entertain such an opinion, we, who have watched and worked at every step of the movement, sought and listened to advice from every quarter, beg our critics to give that best proof of a well-wisher's sympathy—a helping hand.

Continuing to avail ourselves of the Mayor's valued permission, we purpose meeting in this room, at eight every Tuesday evening, to receive contributions, and interchange opinions as to what is best to be done to push on the work we have in hand. The principle of ward meetings has already been tested sufficiently to give a good idea of its value ; and as the evenings lengthen, and in-door meetings become more congenial, every effort will be made to promote the canvass by the aid of ward organisations.

The object of this report has been to recal the main facts which have marked the progress of this committee. It is no part of our present plan to excite enthusiasm by stirring appeals. Public opinion has approved the objects of the fund, while the experience gained has proved the practicability of the undertaking, and led those who promoted it to believe that all the good anticipated is capable of attainment. All that is wanted, is to persevere with all the earnestness and steadfastness of working men, who know that, given good principles, hard work is all-powerful in removing obstacles and achieving lasting success.

Sampson Gamgee, F.R.S., (Edin.), Chairman.
Charles Hibbs, Vice-chairman.

Birmingham, 3rd August, 1869.

The first annual report of the Committee was presented at a meeting held in the Town Hall, on Monday, January 31st, 1870, under the presidency of the Mayor, Mr. T. Prime. This report gives a succinct account of the labours of the past year. At the beginning of their work, the Committee issued an appeal to the working classes, in which the objects of the movement were thus stated :—

The main object is to erect a hospital for out-patients and accidents, on the St. Martin's Rectory grounds, adjoining the Queen's Hospital.

Among the objects which the promoters have in view, are :—

1.—The classification of out-patients in separate waiting rooms, so that a healthy person suffering from a trifling accident, or another the subject of some harmless complaint, may not be compelled to wait in the same room with others afflicted with contagious diseases.

2.—Baths for out-patients, to lesson the risk of the public baths being used by sick persons.

3.—Carriages and stretchers of proper construction for the easy conveyance of the sick and wounded.

4.—Carriages for contagious cases, which are now conveyed in cabs and other public vehicles, to the great injury of the public health.

5.—The appropriation of the detached building now existing at the rear of the Queen's Hospital for contagious cases.

6.—The establishment of a fund to provide working men, whom accident has deprived of their limbs, with the best made artificial substitutes.

7.—The erection of a conservatory, which shall be available for convalescents at all seasons of the year.

It is proposed that the new building shall be constructed on the best principles of hospital management; to relieve deserving persons, check the evil of indiscriminate charity, and foster feelings of self-dependence, so as to be a worthy monument to prove how deeply the working men and women of Birmingham feel for their fellows in distress, and with what thorough earnestness they have resolved on a grand effort to help them.

It is intended that the new hospital building shall be provided with all the necessary comforts for the patients; and with all the means requisite to enable the physicians and surgeons to relieve pain, save life, and promote the advancement of knowledge, in all that concerns the prevention and treatment of disease.

The objects embraced in the scheme have such a direct bearing on the general health and on the well being of all classes in the community, that subscriptions have been promised from a variety of sources. These, and other help will be thankfully accepted, and set apart as a "Fund in Aid."

The Committee at this time consisted of 420 members, including the representatives of 290 factories and workshops. The total amount of money received during the year was £2,134 16s. 4d., of which £239 18s. 10d. was paid in preliminary and current expenses. Of this sum, £719 15s. 4½d.

was contributed as a Fund in Aid by friends of the object, not members of the working classes. The report adds :—

> Mr. George Frederick Muntz's donation of £500 to the Fund in Aid is singled out, not so much by reason of its amount as for the important letter which accompanied it. Mr. G. F. Muntz refers to this movement as 'not only a means of largely increasing the funds of the institution, but calculated to accomplish a greater result in fostering a feeling of independence and self-help in the minds of many who receive benefits from the hospital, such as will entirely change the relations which have existed,' and he further expressed a conviction, which the committee hope will gradually become more general, 'that it is true policy to aid those who manifest a desire to help themselves.'

Notwithstanding many disturbing causes, the perseverance of the Committee continued to be rewarded with the most encouraging success. It was at length resolved to bring the subject before the employers of labour in order to induce them to use their influence in favour of collections in their factories and workshops ; and a meeting for this purpose was held in the theatre of the Midland Institute, on the 31st December 1870. The chair was taken by George Dixon, M.P. The speakers expressed themselves in terms of unqualified approbation of the working men's efforts at self help ; and it was resolved to make a general collection in behalf of this fund in all the factories and workshops of Birmingham. It was also resolved that a simultaneous effort to this end should be made on the 4th and 5th of March, 1871.

At the second annual meeting, held in the Committee Room of the Town Hall, on February 7th, 1871, Mr. Alderman T. Avery in the chair, the Committee stated in their report, that the gross sum received up to that date was £3,208 0s. 7½d.. of which £738 8s. 4½d. had been contributed as a Fund in Aid by sympathisers of the movement. After payment of expenses, a balance remained of £2,774 5s. 5d., £2,500 of which were invested in bonds of the Corporation of the Borough by the trustees. The interest on the amount invested already amounted to £88 1s. 7d., which would in future be nearly sufficient to defray the working expenses of the movement.

A conference which took place with the Committee of Management of the Queen's Hospital promised good results. The Governors held a special general meeting, and authorized the Extension Committee to expend the sum of £5,000 in the erection of the new buildings on St. Martin's Rectory grounds, the amount which was confidently believed would be contributed by the working classes. It was eventually agreed that the Extension Committee should consist of 22 members, equal numbers to be elected by the Hospital authorities and by the Working Men's Committee. The representatives of the latter were elected by ballot, and the following were chosen: Messrs. Hibbs, Radford, Priddey, Rheese, Brindley, Pryse, H. P. Rogers, Steer, M'Millan, William Vincent, and Cross.

The report of the Committee for the year 1870 contained the following paragraph, which we gladly quote: "Mr. Howard S. Smith has laid you under heavy obligation by continuing to audit your accounts every month without professional charge. His certificates have, without exception, testified to the accuracy of the accounts, and have been regularly published."

The result of the special collection in March was, that £1,480 0s. 7d. was obtained, of which amount the working class subscribed £878 19s. 1½d., the sum of £621 1s. 6d. being contributed to the Fund-in-Aid. This last-named amount included the munificent donation of £500 by Miss Ryland.

The next important event in the history of the undertaking was the addition of the Queen's name to the list of donors. Mr. Sampson Gamgee addressed a letter to Earl Granville, in which he briefly informed him of the object proposed, and of the labours of the working men in its behalf, and concluded in these words:—"As chairman of the Working Men's Committee, I humbly submit that the working men of Birmingham are amongst her Majesty's most loyal subjects, and that the approval of her Majesty the Queen would powerfully stimulate to increased exertions those who aim at elevating the working classes by encouraging their efforts at self-help."

To this communication the following reply was made :—

Buckingham Palace, Sept. 28, 1871.

Sir,

I regret having been prevented sooner replying to your letter of the 22nd ult. to Earl Granville, in which you request that the circumstances of the Working Men's Fund for the Extension of the Queen's Hospital, at Birmingham, may be brought before Her Majesty.

Having now had the honour of submitting the case to the Queen, I am directed to acquaint you, that although it is not usual for her Majesty to contribute to local institutions in places with which her Majesty is not immediately connected, in consideration of the peculiar circumstances under which this extension of the Queen's Hospital is proposed, and the patronage which the Queen has previously granted to the institution, her Majesty will contribute one hundred guineas to the Extension Fund.

I have honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient humble Servant,

S. Gamgee, Esq. T. M. Biddulph.

And thus once more the Queen displayed the earnest interest she takes in the happiness and well-being of her people.

On October 28, Mr. Gamgee published a letter, in which he informed the public that building operations had commenced, and that the Committee only contemplated erecting such parts of the new edifice as they are able to pay for. He also stated that a further sum of £10,000 would have to be raised before the whole of the contemplated extension, as designed by the architects, Messrs. Martin and Chamberlain, could be completed. The proposed new buildings would include :—

1st.—An out-patient department and dispensary, with residences for lady superintendent, resident surgeon, physicians' and surgeons' assistants, nurses, and gate porter.

2nd.—A glazed corridor, connecting the preceding block with the present hospital, and available as a conservatory for the recreation of convalescent patients.

3rd.—A complete bath house.

4th.—Two blocks of wards, with convalescent rooms, to accommodate 48 patients jointly.

5th.—A building for laundry purposes, and a detached mortuary house on the canal boundary.

It is believed that, when the projected buildings shall have been completed, the Queen's Hospital will, for its size, be one of the most perfect institutions of the kind in Europe.

At the monthly meeting of the Committee of Management of the Queen's Hospital, held on November 3, the following communication from Mr. G. J. Johnson was received :—

34, Waterloo Street, Birmingham,
November 3rd, 1871.

Dear Sir,

As honorary secretary of the Queen's Hospital Extension Committee, I have to inform you that that Committee has accepted the contract of Messrs. Horsley, of Newton Street, to erect the proposed out-patient department, the *post-mortem* room, and the glass passage connecting the new with the present buildings, for the sum of £8,409. The amount of subscriptions paid and promised up to this time is £6,204 ; add one-third, £2,068 ; total, £8,272. It will be seen that the estimate is as near as possible to the amount to which the Hospital Committee, by their resolution of the 7th of July last, pledged themselves to accept. The Extension Scheme, as now unanimously approved by your medical staff, is much more comprehensive than was originally contemplated. The initiation taken and so well followed up by the working men, has abundantly shown in what estimation the hospital is held by the masses of the people ; while her Majesty's gift, and the statement of reasons which accompanied it, prove that this institution is in the best position for securing largely increased support without class distinction. In carrying out the work on this enlarged basis, the Extension Committee confidently look forward to the friendly and active support of this Committee, which they will do all in their power to deserve and promote. The form of resolution I should suggest would be :— "That, with the concurrence of the Hospital Extension Committee, the seal of the Hospital be affixed to the contract with Messrs. Horsley for the erection of additional buildings on the Rectory grounds, under the direction of the Extension Committee, to the amount of £8,409; and that Messrs. J. Sampson Gamgee and W. H. Dixon be requested to carry this resolution into effect." I have also to report, on behalf of the Fund-in-Aid Committee, that they find themselves unable to proceed in their labour without large additions to their number ; and, in pursuance of the power vested in them for that purpose, they have proposed to add, in the first instance, every member of the Hospital Committee. They believe that a very small expenditure of time and trouble on the part of a larger committee will produce results far more beneficial than could be produced by any labours of a small committee, and that, as the hospital

funds are now committed to an expenditure of £2,000 over and beyond the funds actually raised, every member of the Hospital Committee will feel a great interest in the operations of the Fund-in-Aid Committee.

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

H. C. Burdett, Esq. G. J. Johnson, Hon. Sec.

Lord Leigh having consented to lay the first stone of the new building, it was arranged at a meeting of the Committee, held on November 4, that the ceremony should take place on Monday, December 4, 1871. The ceremony was accompanied with Masonic rites, and a choir of 1,000 voices from the "Birmingham Schools Choral Union" sung the following hymn, specially written for the occasion by the Rev. Canon Kingsley:—

Accept this building, gracious Lord,
No temple though it be;
We raise it for our suffering kin,
And so, good Lord, for Thee.

Accept our little gift, and give
To all who here may dwell,
The will and power to do their work,
Or bear their sorrows well.

From thee all skill and science flow;
All pity, care, and love;
All calm and courage, faith and hope;
Oh pour them from above.

And part them, Lord, to each and all,
As each and all shall need,
To rise, like incense, back to Thee,
In noble thought and deed.

And hasten, Lord, that perfect day,
When pain and death shall cease;
And thy just rule shall fill the earth
With health and light and peace;

When ever blue the sky shall gleam,
And ever green the sod;
And man's rude work deface no more
The Paradise of God.

Mr. G. J. Rankilor, who was the composer of the music, acted as conductor, and Mr. A. Deakin arranged the band accompaniment, which was performed by Messrs. Synyer and Gilmer's military band. After the ceremony, a luncheon took place at the Great Western Hotel, under the presidency of Lord Leigh; and in the evening a soirée at the Town Hall, under the management of Mr. W. Glydon, for the contributors to the Working Men's Fund, at which a short address was delivered by Mr. George Dawson, M.A.

Nearly the whole of the money required for this work was subscribed by the artisans of the town.

THE BIRMINGHAM VOLUNTEER RIFLE CORPS.

In the "Century of Birmingham Life" is given a full record of the enthusiastic manner in which Birmingham took up the Volunteer cause in the time of the great French war. At that period of England's history the spirit which animated the people was not only that of "defence," it was also "defiance." We now proceed to record the beginning, and to follow the progressive growth, of an army of civilians, which was organised purely for defence. The formation of the Volunteer Rifle Corps throughout the country is an event of great importance, and its effect upon our foreign relations will have to be traced by the pen of the future historian. In these more "simple annals" we have but to record the part which Birmingham has taken in this truly national and patriotic movement.

In 1852 an attempt was made to establish a similar body in this town, but the Government of the day not only looked

coldly on the project, but declared that there did not appear any occasion for the formation of a volunteer corps in Birmingham. In 1852, as at the present time [1871], England was in a state of fussy alarm about its army, and a demand was made for the re-organisation of the militia; for which purpose Mr. S. H. Walpole, the then Home Secretary, on March 29, moved, in the House of Commons, that a bill be prepared to amend and consolidate the laws relating to that body. The bill having passed both Houses of Parliament, received the Royal assent. The earnestness of the country on this subject was manifested in numerous offers to form volunteer rifle corps, and Birmingham was not behind other towns in the display of military zeal. In March, 1852, the following advertisement was published :—

BIRMINGHAM RIFLE CORPS.

Gentlemen desirous of joining the Rifle Corps now forming in Birmingham are requested to intimate their wish to the Secretary, Mr. Edwin P. Devis, No. 43, Upper Temple Street, Birmingham, when the same shall be submitted to the Committee.

HENRY HAWKES.
CHARLES DOLLMAN.
T. R. T. HODGSON.
THOMAS KNOWLES.

March 5, 1852.

Aris's Gazette of March 8 made the following reference to the subject :—

In a subsequent column will be found an advertisement announcing the formation of a Rifle Corps in this town. The step was resolved upon at a private meeting of gentlemen respectively attached to the Post Office, on Friday ; Mr. Councillor Dollman in the chair. A Committee was appointed to receive members' names, to frame rules, to decide upon the uniform, and to take all general measures necessary for the enrolment of the force. An immediate application is to be made to the Lord-Lieutenant, the Earl of Warwick, for his sanction ; and in the meantime gentlemen desirous of joining the corps may forward their names to Mr E. P. Devis, the secretary. We understand that the contemplated uniform will be light and inexpensive, and that it is hoped the regulations of the body will be such as to induce a large muster of volunteers.

Mr. J. B. Hebbert was then requested to communicate with Lord Warwick, the Lord-Lieutenant of the county, for the purpose of obtaining his sanction to the formation of the corps. The following is a copy of Mr. Hebbert's letter to his lordship :—

90, New Street, Birmingham,
10 March, 1852.

My Lord,

I have been requested to apply to your lordship, as the Lord-Lieutenant of the County, for your sanction to the formation of a Volunteer Company of Rifles in Birmingham.

The enclosed list contains the names and addresses of the gentlemen who have already associated themselves together provisionally for that purpose, and I am informed there is every prospect—when your lordship's sanction has been given, and further proceedings thereby rendered legal, —that a large accession will take place, so as to form a regular Volunteer Corps.

I feel it almost unbecoming, as it is unnecessary, to remark on the prospects and advantages of such a body at the present moment ; or to refer to former experience, and Acts of Parliament, in justification of the policy and strictly constitutional character of its formation.

No rules and regulations have yet been digested, but it is proposed that the corps' members themselves shall provide both arms and accoutrements, and be, of course, subject to such orders for drill and discipline as may meet your lordship's approval.

The preliminaries for the formation of the company are now in the hands of a Committee, appointed at a general meeting, held at the Public Office, on Friday, March 5th ; and it is by the request of that Committee that I thus venture, in their names, to apply for your lordship's sanction. They also desire me respectfully to submit the following names as the first officers of the company :—

J. B. Hebbert.
C. Dollman.
H. Simons.

I copy them in the order they are handed to me, without any unnecessary affectation of modesty because my own name stands first. I am only the organ of the Committee in this matter, but it is, probably, in some degree, because, having formerly served in the W. Y. C. (under Captain King), I may be supposed to know a little more about it than the others.

I have requested Mr. R. Spooner to be so kind as to transmit this application to your Lordship, in order that you may at once learn from him the general character of the parties concerned.

Waiting your reply,

I am, my Lord,

Your faithful humble Servant,

JOHN B. HEBBERT.

To the Right Hon. The Earl of Warwick,
Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Warwick.

The "enclosed list" contained a large number of well-known and influential names. To this communication Lord Warwick returned the following reply :—

Warwick Castle, March 19th, 1852.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter and enclosures on the subject of the Volunteer Rifle Company, proposed to be raised at Birmingham, on which subject *I know nothing at all*, except by casual reports, of such corps being in contemplation.

In my official situation I have not heard *one word*, nor know how they are proposed to be organised, or the specific duties they are intended to be applied to ; the *extent of their services;* or under whose direction those services may be made available. There has been no act passed that I am aware of relative to *this* description of force, nor any intention of the views of Government respecting it. Probably we may hear more particulars on the Mutiny Bill and Militia Bill coming before Parliament.

But as the case *stands at present*, as Lord-Lieutenant of the County, I know not what I am *applying for officially* to ask at the hands of the Government by forwarding your application, with my own recommendation towards its being acted on.

I have, therefore, written to the Home Secretary, requesting instructions on this subject—*How such applications are to be dealt with* by myself, for I myself know not what rifle corps, in *fact*, *are*, or how, or for what definite objects their forces are proposed to be embodied or regulated on.

I beg, in stating this, *not* to be *misunderstood* as *raising difficulties;* I only wish to see my way clearly in the applications made to me, and the *position* in which these *projected* corps at present stand.

I have heard nothing of them from Government, nor any public Act to direct me *in acting* on from myself as *lord-lieutenant*, though I am aware that *county* corps have always been under their supervision and direction when established or allowed to be.

I have *not* written this officially. Perhaps my answer from the Home Office will explain the position Government themselves feel inclined to

adopt, *if* they have made up their minds at present on this subject; but at present I know *nothing*. I shall be very happy to pay my best attention to the subject, and very happy to hear anything from yourself on it you think of use to myself relative to the *position* the company has thus far arrived at in tendering their services, and what footing they propose to be placed on likely to be sanctioned by Parliament.

Yours respectfully,

J. B. Hebbert, Esq. WARWICK.

Mr. Hebbert thus answered the inquiries made in the above letter:—

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letter your Lordship has had the kindness to address to me on the subject of the proposed Rifle Corps in Birmingham.

I may, perhaps, be allowed to premise that I was not an *originator* of the scheme; but, having agreed to join, I am unexpectedly made their organ of communication.

As far as I understand it, the so-called *Rifle Corps* are *Volunteers*, proposing to be embodied and organized under the old Volunteer Act of George III. (44 Geo. III., c. 54,) and, therefore, to be proceeded with in their first establishment, subsequent organisation, and ultimate duties and discipline, precisely as the present Yeomanry Cavalry. I know of no other law but that which contemplates the establishment of both cavalry *and* infantry; and I suppose it is mainly the adoption of a modest arm (the rifle) that has given the name to a body intended, probably, to act as a light infantry company, in aid of the civil power, when called upon, within their own district, precisely as the Yeomanry now are. These, however, are all points on which it was proposed to seek your Lordship's counsel, if you should approve of the principle of the establishment of such a force in Birmingham.

I presume, from Lord Derby's speech last night, that the Government do not wish to discourage these associations (not to "damp the patriotic spirit," he said,) though they will not *aid* in their formation. It will, therefore, most likely rest with your Lordship to act or not to act in this matter.

As I shall be in Leamington at the beginning of the week, I could easily wait on your Lordship, if you would permit me to do so, on the subject, either on Monday or Wednesday next. I shall be visiting Mrs. Meredith, Eastnor Villa, Radford Road, Leamington.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Yours faithfully,

J. B. HEBBERT.

P.S.—I believe your Lordship was colonel of the Old Birmingham Volunteers, as Lord Brooke, in 1800.

The application was forwarded to the Secretary of State by Lord Warwick, who informed Mr. Hebbert of the fact, and at the same time sent him the official reply. The following is Lord Warwick's letter:—

Dear Sir,

I am sorry I am obliged to go to town (7, Carlton Gardens), but send you the answer of the Secretary of State to your residence in Birmingham, thinking such safest. I desired it to be kept there till called for, declining to proceed with any organisation of rifle corps till the Militia Bill is passed, &c., &c.,

Yours,
WARWICK.

Warwick Castle, March 23, 1252.

Mr. Walpole's reply was as follows:—

Whitehall, 20th March, 1852.

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 18th instant, respecting an application which you have received in reference to the formation of a Volunteer Rifle Corps at Birmingham.

Her Majesty's Government are highly sensible of the value and importance of having the assistance of volunteer rifle corps; and, in case of necessity, they would willingly avail themselves of that assistance. But until some progress is made in the measure, which they will have to submit to the consideration of Parliament with reference to the militia, they have deemed it advisable that the formation of such corps should be suspended for the present, except in those cases where the late Government has actually sanctioned them, or where it may be expedient, for special reasons, to make an exception.

It does not appear to me that there is any occasion for the formation of a volunteer rifle corps at Birmingham at the present time; but I request your Lordship will be so good as to thank the gentlemen who have made the application, for the readiness they have shown in offering to come forward.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,
Your Lordship's obedient servant,
S. H. WALPOLE.

The Earl of Warwick, Warwick Castle.

And so terminated the effort to establish a Birmingham Volunteer Rifle Corps in 1852.

Seven years later the attempt proved more successful. A meeting, called by circular, was held at the Royal Hotel, on May 17, 1859, to "take into consideration the expediency of forming a rifle corps, subject to the proclamation issued from the War Office." It was very influentially attended, and Mr. Van Wart was elected chairman. Messrs. J. W. Whateley, J. O. Mason, T. H. Gem, P. H. Muntz, W. J. Beale, A. Ryland, J. B. Hebbert, and S. Buckley took part in the proceedings; and resolutions declaring that it was desirable to form a Volunteer Rifle Corps in Birmingham, and appointing a general Committee to make the necessary arrangements, were passed. The Committee consisted of—

H. Van. Wart
J. W. Whateley
Thomas A. Attwood
W. L. Beale
J. B. Hebbert
Thomas Dixon
Thomas Lloyd
Henry Elwell
J. O. Mason.

On May, 19, a public meeting was held in the Athenæum Rooms, under the presidency of Mr. George Edmonds, at which, on the motion of Mr. Robert Wright, seconded by Mr. J. H. Duke, and supported by Mr. T. H. Gem, it was resolved :—

That, in accordance with the suggestion of the previous meeting, it is desirable to form a Volunteer Rifle Corps in Birmingham, under the rules and regulations to be issued by the Lord-Lieutenant of the County.

Mr. Eugene Muntz proposed, and Mr. Otto Peres seconded, the next resolution :—

That all gentlemen who are anxious to join a Volunteer Rifle Corps are invited to sign their names in a book, which will be kept for that purpose.

On the motion of Mr. J. W. Williams, seconded by Dr. Roger Banks, it was resolved :—

That a committee be appointed to carry out the above resolution, and to give information to those who may require it ; and that the following gentlemen do compose such committee (with power to add to their number) viz. :—

George Edmonds
Robert Wright
Thomas Slaney
Roger Banks
Eugene G. Muntz
John Henry Duke
Henry Adolphe Muntz
J. B. Hollingsworth, jun.
Otto Peres
Philip Albert Muntz
Thos. W. Williams

It was also resolved, on the motion of Mr. P. A. Muntz, seconded by Mr. Thomas Slaney :—

That the committee hereby appointed be authorised to open communications with another committee appointed at a meeting held at Dee's Hotel on Tuesday, in order to effect an amalgamation, and, if necessary, to communicate with the Lord-Lieutenant of the county ; and that this committee do report the result at a meeting to be held here on Tuesday evening next, at seven o'clock.

A meeting was held at Warwick on May 21, at which Messrs. F. Ledsam, W. James, Sands Cox, and Thomas Lloyd were appointed Deputy-Lieutenants, to act as principals in the enlistment of Volunteers for Birmingham. On the 23rd the sub-committee appointed at Dee's Hotel held a meeting, at which Mr. Van Wart reported that he and Mr. Alderman Lloyd had attended the meeting of the lieutenancy of the county held at Warwick on Saturday, when it was resolved that Birmingham should be called upon to provide sixteen companies of not less than fifty men and not exceeding seventy-five. Lord Leigh was unable to give further information at present, but in a few days he would be able to appoint a colonel, under whose direction the corps will be formed. His lordship also informed them that he had appointed a committee of deputy-lieutenants, to whom the names of the volunteers should be reported. The chairman further stated that he had been waited upon by a deputation of gentlemen, nominated at a meeting held at the Athenæum Rooms on Thursday, who submitted to him a proposal for the amalgamation of the two bodies on the following terms :— That the two general committees be united, that the sub-committee of management should consist of an equal number of members from each committee, and that Mr. J. H. Duke be associated with Mr. Richards as honorary secretary.

After discussing the terms of this proposal, a resolution was adopted to the effect that, while the sub-committee would be happy to co-operate with any body of gentlemen in establishing a rifle corps in Birmingham, and would submit the foregoing proposal for the consideration of the general committee, it was of opinion that as a committee of deputy-lieutenants had been appointed for this division, and as a colonel would shortly be nominated by the Lord-Lieutenant, to act as principals in the formation of the volunteer rifle corps in this town, it was expedient and necessary that the consideration of any further public steps, except the reception of names, should be for the present postponed. The chairman was requested to inform Mr. Ledsam, as senior deputy-lieutenant, that the enrolment book and other papers were at his disposal.

Almost contemporaneously with the meetings above recorded, another and independent effort to raise a Volunteer Corps was made. A meeting for the purpose was called by the following circular:—

Birmingham,
May 20, 1859.

Dear Sir,

Your attendance is particularly requested at a meeting to be held at the Acorn Inn, Upper Temple Street, on Thursday evening, the 26th inst., at eight o'clock, to take into consideration the means of forming ourselves into a Rifle Club, as a preliminary to joining the proposed Government Volunteer Rifle Corps. The expense and style of arms and uniform has been inquired into and will be laid before the meeting.

We are, yours truly,
J. B. Winder.
B. W. Faulkner.
M. H. Simpson.

N.B.—If you are unable to attend, your reply by letter will oblige.

About a dozen gentlemen attended, but with no definite result. As other gentlemen in the town were endeavouring to form a company, an amalgamation was proposed, and the following circular was issued for another meeting:—

Acorn Inn, Upper Temple Street,
August 20, 1859.

Sir,

On the other side we send you a list of gentlemen who have agreed to form a company in the proposed Warwickshire Volunteer Rifle Regiment, to which we shall be glad to add your name.

If you desire to join them, we shall feel obliged by your attendance at a meeting, to be held at the Acorn, on Wednesday evening next, at half-past eight o'clock, or by your addressing a letter to us as above, expressing your wish to be enrolled.

We are, Sir,
Yours obediently,

W. B. Briggs	J. B. Winder
T. H. Gem	B. Beasly
M. H. Simpson	F. Harris.

The following is a list of gentlemen who have agreed to form a company in the proposed Warwickshire Volunteer Rifle Regiment :—

Mr. Banks, Morris, jun.
Mr. Beasley, Benjamin
Mr. Bellis, John, jun.
Mr. Burt, Charles T.
Mr. Burt, George
Mr. Briggs, W. B.
Mr. Calisher, Bertram
Mr. Dalton, John
Mr. Elwell, R.
Mr. Edwards, George
Mr. Everill, John
Mr. Gem, George S.
Mr. Gem, T. H.
Mr. Genever, E. W.
Mr. Goddard, E.
Mr. Hardwick, Joseph
Mr. Harris, Frank
Mr. Holmes, Edward
Mr. Hollingsworth
Mr. Jennings, W. H.
Mr. Kynoch, J.
Mr. Lee, John
Mr. Lee
Mr. Machin, John, jun.
Mr. Mole, Thomas H.
Mr. Potter, Robert B.
Mr. Potter, W. W.
Mr. Simpson, M. H.
Mr. Sabin, William
Mr. Simmons, W. E.
Mr. Simpson, Thomas
Mr. Smith, Joseph
Mr. Thomas, Edward
Mr. Walford, John
Mr. Wills, James A.
Mr. Winder, J. B.
Mr. Winder, C.
Mr. Winder, M.
Mr. Webley, Thomas W.
Mr. Williams.

To these gentlemen is due the honour of having made the first practical attempt to organise the Rifle Corps.

"Society, which the more I think of it astonishes me the more, is founded upon cloth." So writes Herr Diogenes Teufelsdröckh, and the members of the Rifle Corps afforded

one more illustration for the founder of the Philosophy of Clothes. At the beginning of their career there was a quarrel about the uniform, in consequence of which some eighty members resigned. This quarrel and secession inspired the local muse, and several squibs in verse were produced. These were not remarkable either for their poetry or their wit; but, as a part of the history of the Corps, we reproduce two of these Volunteer *jeux d'esprit*—the Censure and the Reply:—

Some doughty men with great delight
Did join the Rifle Corps;
And vowed they were prepared to fight
The French, should they come o'er.

They rushed like lions to the Hall
Called Bingley, in Broad Street,
Where, "for a time," they one and all
Both day and night did meet.

But soon, alas! it did appear,
When tested well within,
These doughty youths no lions were,
But only so in "skin."

For some had joined to drive a trade,
And hoped their wares to sell;
No orders came, so soon they made
Excuse to say "farewell!"

The uniform became with some
A cause of great objection,
Because it did not quite become
Their delicate complexion.

The button, too, it did not look
So nice as hook and eye.
At this some others umbrage took,
And bid the corps good-bye.

The belt did not exactly please
Those of exquisite taste.
"No gentleman could feel at ease
With that around his waist."

The cap came in for much abuse,
And some liked not the braid;
So, having this or that excuse,
Why, down their arms they laid.

A few went through full fifty drills
And never raised objection,
Until the day of swearing in;
They then dissolved connection.

Now, let the simple truth be told,
No valid cause existed
Why men should quit who seemed so bold
When in the corps they 'listed.

But, as such men would surely lag,
If e'er the tug should come,
Rather than stain Old England's Flag,
They'd better stay at home.

The Corps has not sustained a loss;
It soon will rightly settle,
And, once when purged of all the dross,
Will prove true British metal.

The following was the rather weak answer:—

Some thoughtful men, with some delight,
Once joined the Rifle Corps;
But finding things were not quite right,
They said, "We'll go no more."

The Public wondered why they left,
But this was soon explained;
The newspapers they took it up,
The officer was blamed.

So, finding it could not go on,
A Meeting, said, they'd call,
And the question ne'er was touched upon
In the room of the Town Hall.

When at the door you entered,
Some doggerel verse was given;
Let us hope such sense is centered
In some members, six or seven.

For when they all were marched in square,
To say we are contented,
They closed their heels and, with a stare,
Gave cheers as if demented!

To men, who have to pay for clothes,
The question they might ask;
Not give them in militia style,
And then take them to task.

But let a proper start be made—
A Regiment for the Town,
Free from County and Club influence,
And men will soon be found.

What if the buttons are so bad,
That they must now be changed;
Or men in office must be snubbed,
And matters all arranged.

The town saw through the little game,
And asked the reason why,
There now were but 200 names,
And men of sense fought shy.

The first general muster of the Birmingham division took place on October 12, 1859. A part of Bingley Hall was partitioned off for the purpose, and as many as 116 members assembled on the occasion, including Alderman Lloyd, Mr. J. O. Mason, (Chairman of the Committee,) Mr. T. A. Attwood, and Mr. T. H. Gem, (Honorary Secretary.) Five sergeants belonging to the 1st Warwickshire Militia, who were engaged to drill the corps and discipline them into a soldierly bearing, were present, and under their direction the volunteers were drawn up in line. Mr. Mason then addressed a few remarks to them, observing that as they were now called together for the purpose of being drilled, and as he presumed they were animated by a proper spirit, he hoped they would pay attention to the instructions that would be afforded to them, and that they would in due course prove themselves a credit to the volunteer movement. He added that, under the circum-

stances, it had been considered advisable to alter the hours of drill as then arranged, which would in future be from half-past seven to half-past eight in the morning; and from half-past four to half-past five in the afternoon; and from half-past seven to half-past eight in the evening. These alterations were agreed to unanimously, and the greatest enthusiasm was manifested by the members of the corps on the auspicious commencement of their duties. It was agreed to assemble on the following Saturday, for the first drill, at the same place. This active step on the part of the committee and promoters of the movement was conducive to a large augmentation of the corps. Some pattern uniforms were shown in the drill room, and were inspected with much critical attention by the members, but the selection was deferred. No appointment, beyond that of Major Sanders, as captain, had up to this time been gazetted.

On November 7, about 200 members assembled at the Hall to meet Lord Leigh, the Lord-Lieutenant of the County. He was accompanied by Colonel Scott, and both gentlemen warmly congratulated those present on the proficiency they had already attained.

On December 14, 1859, a meeting "of persons interested in the Rifle Corps movement" was convened by the Mayor, (Mr. Thos. Lloyd). It was held in the Committee Room of the Town Hall, which was crowded. Mr. W. Scholefield, M.P., the Rev. Dr. Miller, Sir John Ratcliff, Messrs. A. Dixon, P. H. Muntz, T. A. Attwood, C. Shaw, J. Phillips, J. A. Langford, J. D. Goodman, the Rev. J. C. Barrett, Mr. George Dixon, and others, took part in the proceedings.

William Scholefield, M.P., moved the first resolution:— "That the number of volunteers now enrolled, viz., four companies, is not equal to the numbers which should be raised in a population such as Birmingham."

Sir John Ratcliff, Knight, moved the second resolution:— "That a Rifle Corps Association be formed for the purpose of increasing the number of volunteers, and for creating a fund for defraying the annual expenses."

At this meeting, a Committee was elected as follows:—

President.....Thomas Lloyd, Esq., Mayor
Vice-President .....Sir J. Ratcliff, Knight
Treasurer.....J. D. Goodman, Esq.
Bankers .....Attwood, Spooner, and Co.
Hon. Secretary .....Mr. T. P. Salt

COMMITTEE.

The Mayor
Sir J. Ratcliff
C. Shaw, Esq.
W. L. Sargant, Esq.
Councillor Ryland
Mr. Thomas Dixon
Mr. C. Reeves
Mr. B. Smith
Mr. John Jeffreys
Mr. J. O. Mason
Mr. T. A. Attwood
Alderman J. H. Cutler
Councillor Yates
Councillor Maher
Mr. C. Ratcliff
J. D. Goodman, Esq.
Mr. J. A. Langford
Dr. Wrightson
T. P. Salt (hon. sec.)

As an earnest of the work proposed, the Mayor offered to equip 20 men at his own expense; Sir John Ratcliff 20; Mr. A. Dixon, 20; Mr. James Lloyd, 20; Messrs. C. and J. Shaw, 20; Messsrs. Scholefield, 10; Messrs. Goodman and Cooper, Mr. Councillor Phillips, and Mr. George Dixon, 5 each; and Dr. Birt Davies, 1. Several subscriptions were also given at the meeting. The following are the rules which the new association adopted:—

1st. To obtain volunteers, for the purpose of forming further companies in addition to those already embodied in Birmingham, such additional companies to be subject to the rules approved by the Secretary of State for War, on the 17th of November, 1859, and to any future alterations which may be found necessary.—2nd. To assist volunteers in their equipment. Such volunteers to be recommended by their employers, or other respectable persons; and to be approved, prior to being proposed for enrolment, by the acting committee of this association.—3rd. To canvass employers for the express purpose of inducing them to permit their men to enrol themselves. To recommend employers to assist in their men's equipment, and to sanction the necessary facilities for attendance on their military duties.—4th. To raise funds, by obtaining donations, for the purpose of affording the assistance referred to in clause 2.—5th. To obtain the names of gentlemen as honorary members of the Rifle Corps.—6th. To procure annual subscriptions towards defraying the yearly working expenses of the Rifle Corps.

On January 10, 1860, Lord Leigh met the Committee, and stated that he would sanction a Birmingham battalion of the Warwickshire Rifle Corps, with a separate command, provided 500 men were raised. Mr. Goodman informed his lordship that the gunmakers would subscribe £1,000 towards the equipment of their own men.

On the 30th of the same month was published a code of rules for the management of the association, the regulations for enlistment, and the privileges of honorary members. Rooms were taken in Cannon Street for enrolling members, and the transaction of the other business of the association.

The association held its first meeting at the office on February 6, 1860, to receive a report from the honorary secretary, and for the transaction of other business.

The Mayor stated that from a calculation which had been made as to the annual requirements of the corps it was found that at least £1,000 would be needed to meet the recurring liabilities, and that the association, as one of its first objects, should at once make efforts to secure the necessary funds. Mr. Charles Ratcliff said that a great number of young men desirous of joining the corps had sent in their names; and that gentleman expressed his willingness to equip 100 men, on condition that each man would pay 20s. towards the cost of uniform and accoutrements, as required by one of the rules of the association. On the 13th February following, ninety-six men were sworn in; Mr. Ratcliff being appointed captain. The men were sworn in the Town Hall, as members of the "Birmingham Volunteer Corps," and were subsequently marched to Bingley Hall in a body, and there introduced as the 7th company of the battalion.

A number of ward meetings were held, at which the objects of the association were stated, and canvassers appointed. The first of such meetings was held in St. Peter's Ward, Sir J. Ratcliff presiding.

On the 20th February, Mr. George Perton announced his intention of equipping 100 men on the same conditions as

Mr. C. Ratcliff. The gunmakers took an active part in the movement. £600 was subscribed by that body, which enabled the association to raise three additional companies, which were called "The Gunmakers' Companies," making in all twelve companies. Recruiting was now carried on with enthusiasm and success, large numbers of names being on the books of the association waiting for the appointment of officers, and to be sworn in.

At the end of February, the state of the corps was as follows:—the number of men enrolled was nearly 1,000; Charles Ratcliff, George Perton, and G. Everitt had equipped companies, in accordance with the rules of the rifle corps association, and Captains Richards, Reeves, and Hebbert had been appointed to the command of the three Gunmakers' Companies; Thomas Lloyd, Sir John Ratcliff, James Lloyd, Abraham Dixon, Messrs. Charles and James Shaw, had equipped 20 men each: Alderman Thomas Phillips, and Messrs. Scholefield and Sons, 10 men each; Jacob Phillips, Thomas Dixon, and Messrs. Cooper and Goodman, 5 men each. The donations and annual subscriptions promised amounted to nearly £800.

The first "march-out" of the newly-formed corps, and its first public exercise, took place at Calthorpe Park, on Saturday, February 25, in the presence of several thousand spectators.

At a meeting of the association, held in March, the honorary secretary read a letter from Lord Leigh, the lord-lieutenant of the county, to the effect that he could not sanction any further increase in the number of volunteers until a sufficient fund was raised to guarantee the permanent maintenance of the companies already formed. Recruiting was at once stopped, and efforts were made to raise the necessary funds. This was accomplished; about £1,500 were obtained in donations, and £400 per annum in annual subscriptions from honorary members. The association was then dissolved, a vote of thanks having been proposed by

Captain Mason to the honorary secretary, to whose exertions, he stated, this result was mainly due.

Up to this date, March 13, 1860, the Birmingham companies formed part of the Warwickshire battalion, but the war office now sanctioned a Birmingham battalion, and in the *Gazette*, April 2, 1860, Major Sanders was appointed lieutenant-colonel, and captain J. O. Mason, major, and the following officers to complete the three last companies, *i.e.*, lieutenant C. Reeves to be captain; Robert Mole, gent, to be captain; John Benbow Hebbert to be captain; John Jeffreys, lieutenant; Thomas Partridge Salt, ensign.

On March 13, the Rev. J. C. Barrett delivered a lecture before the members of the Birmingham companies, on "England and her Volunteers." The lecture was given in the Town Hall. Mr. Stimpson presided at the organ; and as the Volunteers marched into the hall, he played a composition founded on the well-known "British Grenadier's March." The Mayor, in his captain's uniform, presided, and Lieut.-Colonel Sanders, the captain commanding the Birmingham companies, was also present.

In the same month, Lord Leigh notified to the commanding officers the acceptance by the Queen of the first eight Birmingham companies as a battalion, and it was announced that they would in future be numbered as follows:—No. 1, or Major Sanders's; No. 2, or Captain Mason's; No. 3, or Captain Attwood's; No. 4, or Captain Lloyd's; No. 5, or Captain Elkington's; No. 6, or Captain Everitt's; No. 7, or Captain Ratcliff's; No. 8, or Captain Richards's company. On March 7, the Queen held a Court for the reception of the Volunteer officers, when the commanders of the Birmingham companies were presented to her Majesty by the Under Secretary of State of War.

In May of this year the force consisted of twelve companies, of an average effective strength of ninety men, or a total of 1,080. The following is a list of the officers:—Lieut.-Colonel Sanders, Major J. O. Mason, Lieut. and

Adjutant M'Innis; chaplain, the Rev. J. C. Miller, D.D.; surgeon, Dr. Alfred Hill; assistant-surgeon, Mr. Yates.

Compy.	Captain.	Lieutenant.	Ensign.
1.	T. H. Gem	Burt	Walford
2.	Biggs	A. Malins	Edwards
3.	Attwood	Chesshire	Warden
4.	T. Lloyd	Dixon	Barclay
5.	Elkington	Williams	Scholefield
6.	Everitt	Kimberley	Allcock
7.	Ratcliff	Armfield	Slaney
8.	Richards	Hollis	W. F. Richards
9.	Perton	Neville	D. Malins, jun.
10.	Hebbert	Jeffreys	Salt
11.	Reeves	Smallwood	Buckley
12.	Mole	F. W. Mole	

The first annual meeting of the corps was held in Bingley Hall, on July 5, 1860, Lieut.-Colonel Sanders in the chair. The Committee of Management reported that since its commencement in August, 1859, the volunteer movement had made speady progress. There were now 1,250 names on the regimental roll, and allowing for deaths and removals, there would be still about 1,150 volunteers in the twelve companies forming the First Warwickshire Rifle Corps. The balance-sheet showed an expenditure of £1,652 0s. 3d.; the subscriptions and donations amounted to £1,481 10s.; leaving a deficiency of £170 10s. 3d.

The first inspection or review of the Volunteers as a complete corps, took place on Saturday, July 21, when 747 men assembled at Bingley Hall, and marched to Calthorpe Park. The review was conducted by Lord Leigh, the Lord-Lieutenant of the county, and at its conclusion he congratulated the battalion upon its efficiency, and added that the conduct of the Warwickshire Volunteers at Hyde Park, on the 23rd, did great credit to the county.

The rifle range provided for the practice of our Volunteers, at Bourne Brook, was opened on August 9. The Mayor (Mr. T. Lloyd) had offered a rifle, and the Birmingham Small Arms

Company two others, for competition by the best shots of the battalion. The contest for these prizes was deemed a fitting occasion on which, formally, to open the grounds. The first shot was fired by Mrs. Lloyd. Mr. J. Baker, of the 10th company, won the Mayor's prize; and Mr. Rodway, of the 7th, and Mr. Woolley, of the 3rd, were the winners of the other two.

The first official inspection of the battalion took place in Calthorpe Park on August 27, by Major Dick, the assistant inspecting officer for the Midland District. There were between 600 and 700 men present, and the Major warmly congratulated them on the satisfactory manner in which they performed the various movements. Adjutant M'Innis unfortunately met with a severe accident, having been thrown from his horse, which prevented him taking part in the inspection, and which consequently cast a gloom over an otherwise successful gathering.

In September the name of the "First Battalion of Warwickshire Rifle Volunteers" was, by the authority of the War Office, altered to "The First Warwickshire (Birmingham) Rifle Volunteer Corps."

The corps, to the number of about 750, out of 1,200, was reviewed at Malvern on October 6; General Earl Beauchamp acting as inspecting officer for the day.

A number of ladies in Birmingham subscribed a fund for the purpose of purchasing a set of colours for presentation to the corps. The use of colours, however, not being permitted to riflemen, it was decided that the money raised for that object should be applied to the purchase of the instruments requisite for a drum and fife band. This was accordingly done. Mr. Stevens was appointed instructor, and on March 30, 1861, the Volunteers marched to Calthorpe Park, preceded by the spirit-stirring music of the band. Miss Cooper, of King's Heath, was selected to make the presentation, which she did in a very graceful manner, and Lieutenant-Colonel Mason expressed the acknowledgments of the Volunteers.

A meeting was held on April 12, to consider the financial condition of the corps. From the report then presented it appeared that the number of enrolled members had, in a very short time, increased from 503 to 1,226. The total expenditure had amounted to £3,256 4s. 9d.; the income from all sources was less than the expenditure by about £1,000, which the Committee desired to see liquidated. Resolutions were passed, urging upon the inhabitants of the town the necessity of efficiently supporting the corps, in order to meet the deficiency; and to place the battalion on a sound and satisfactory footing, it was resolved that a subscription be entered into for that purpose.

At the review of the Midland Volunteers, which was held at Warwick, on July 24th, by the Duke of Cambridge, 9,022 volunteers were present; and the Birmingham battalion was specially distinguished for its precision and efficiency.

The usual drills, inspections, and prize shooting continued to take place, but the corps was not successful in removing its debt. The balance-sheet presented at the annual meeting, at the begining of 1862, showed the amount due to the treasurers, Messrs. Lloyd and Company, to be £840. For this overdrawn account Colonel Mason and Major Attwood had made themselves personally responsible, the captains of companies also having agreed to share their responsibility. The captains now, not unreasonably, desired to relieve themselves of this liability, and an appeal was made to the public to raise the sum required to liquidate the debt. At this time £553 were due on outstanding subscriptions.

In July, 1863, the hon. C. G. Scott resigned the colonelship of the corps, and major J. O. Mason was promoted to the vacant honour.

The year 1863 is distinguished in the history of the corps as the bazaar year. A meeting was held in April, Major T. A. Attwood in the chair, at which it was resolved to hold a bazaar in the Town Hall, in the second week in October, for the benefit of the funds of the corps. Major Attwood,

Captain Richards, and Lieutenant T. P. Salt were appointed honorary secretaries, and were requested to take the necessary steps to obtain the names of ladies and gentlemen to act as patronesses and patrons. An influental committee was elected, and the Town Hall was secured for October 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, on which days the bazaar was held. At the committee meeting, May 8, it was reported that the following ladies had consented to receive contributions of work for the stalls :—

Mrs. J. Mason
Mrs. T. A. Attwood
Miss Buckley
Mrs. Burt
Mrs. Dixon
Mrs. F. Elkington
Mrs. T. H. Gem
Mrs. J. B. Hebbert
Mrs. Alfred Hill
Mrs. Hollis
Mrs. Ledsam
Mrs. T. Lloyd
Mrs. Lucy
Mrs. Arthur Malins
Mrs. Mole
Mrs. M'Innis
Miss Richards
Mrs. T. P. Salt
Mrs. Warren
Mrs. Yates.

The following advertisement was published in May :—

FIRST WARWICKSHIRE VOLUNTEER RIFLE CORPS.

A BAZAAR OF USEFUL AND ORNAMENTAL WORK

Will be held in the month of October, 1863, in the Town Hall, Birmingham, in aid of the funds of the corps, under the distinguished patronage of

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN,
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS OF WALES,

The Countess of Craven
Lady Blount
Lady Clarendon
Lady Elcho
Lady Constance Grosvenor
Lady Diana Packington
Lady Ward

Earl Beauchamp
Earl of Craven
Earl Clarendon
Earl Grosvenor
Lord Howe
Lord Leigh
Lord Lyttelton
Lord Lifford
Lord Northwick
Lord Ranelagh
The Right Hon. Sir John Pakington, Bart., M.P.

Sir T. W. Biddulph, Bart.
Sir G. H. Beaumont, Bart.
Sir J. W. C. Hartopp, Bart.
Sir T. G. Skipwith, Bart.
Sir G. Wetherill
Sir John Ratcliff, Knight
Major General Whylock
Colonel M'Murdo
Colonel Lindsey
Colonel Dick
Colonel Wardlow and Officers 1st Royal Dragoons
Lieutenant-Colonel Mason and Officers 1st W. V. R. C.
Lieutenant-Colonel Vernon
Lieutenant-Colonel Granville
Captain Warlow
The High Sheriff of Warwickshire
The Mayor of Warwick
The Right Hon. C. B. Adderley, M.P.
The Honourable C. E. Leigh
R. Spooner, Esq., M.P.
W. Scholefield, Esq., M.P.
H. B. Sheridan, Esq., M.P.
R. Garnett, Esq.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BAZAAR COMMITTEE,
Lieutenant-Colonel J. O. Mason.

TREASURER,
Captain Charles Ratcliff.

BANKERS,
Messrs. Attwoods, Spooner, and Co.

Donations in money may be paid to the bankers, or Treasurer. Contributions of manufactured articles to be sent to head-quarters, Bingley Hall, addressed to the care of the honorary secretaries of the bazaar committee.

T. A. ATTWOOD, Major,
CHAS. RICHARDS, Captain,
T. P. SALT, Lieutenant,
} Hon. Secs.

In August the following donations were announced:—

Per Lieutenant Salt.

	£	s.	d.
The Right Hon .Lord Leigh	25	0	0
Major Attwood	10	0	0
R. L. Chance, Esq.	10	10	0
F. I. Welsh, Esq.	5	5	0
Proprietors of *Journal* and *Post*	5	5	0
M. D. Hill, Esq.	2	2	0
A Friend	2	2	0
W.	2	2	0

Per Lieutenant Salt.

	£	s.	d.
Lady Willoughby de Broke	1	1	0
Mr. W. H. Beaumont	1	1	0
Mr. B. Hall	1	1	0
Mr. E. Lingard	1	1	0
Per Captain Briggs.			
Messrs. Briggs & Sons	5	5	0
Mr. Henry Weiss	5	5	0
Messrs. Branson and Murray	5	5	0

Per Lieutenant Buckley.	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Ocks Brothers	2	0	0
Mr. Francis Bolton ...	1	1	0
Messrs. Hopkins and Sons	1	1	0
Mr. J. H. Deeley ...	1	0	0
Messrs. Hirons, Plante and Co.	1	0	0
Messrs. McCallum and Hodson	1	0	0
Sums under £1	7	0	0
Per Ensign Stroud.			
H. Hunt, Esq.	5	5	0
Mr. T. Goodman	1	1	0
Mr. Archer	1	0	0
Sums under £1	1	5	0
Per Captain Ratcliff.			
James Lloyd, Esq. ...	3	0	0
Mr. J. B. Goodman...	2	2	0
Per Captain Williams.			
H. Van Wart, Esq....	2	0	0
Mr. Thomas Avery ...	1	0	0

Per Lieutenant Ledsam.	£	s.	d.
Rev. F. G. Ledsam ...	1	0	0
Miss Ledsam	1	0	0
Per Lieutenant Edwards.			
Mr. Nock	5	0	0
Per Captain Hollis.			
Mr. W. J. B. Scott ...	5	5	0
Messrs. J. Hollis and Sons	2	2	0
Mr. R. Lloyd	2	2	0
Mr. H. Edmunds.....	1	1	0
Mr. J. R. Botham ...	1	1	0
Messrs. Hollingsworth and Scruton	1	1	0
A Friend	1	1	0
Sums under £1	3	2	6
Mr. Jacob Phillips ...	5	5	0
Rev. I. C. Barrett, per Sergeant Surman...	1	0	0
Various sums under £1	1	0	0

The ladies who consented to preside at stalls were:—

Lady Leigh	Mrs. T. P. Hawkins
The Hon. Mrs. Adderley	Mrs. Attwood
Mrs. Newdegate	Mrs. Gem
Mrs. Mason	Mrs. Burt
Mrs. Hebbert	Mrs. Alfred Hill
Mrs. M'Innis	Miss Keating
Mrs. Chesshire	Miss Cohen
Miss Chesshire	Mrs. G. Beard
Miss Soden	Mrs. Henry Richards.

The designs for the decoration of the Town Hall were furnished by Mr. J. J. Allen, artist, a member of the corps, under whose superintendence it was carried out, and the interior of the building presented an *ensemble* as artistic as it was brilliant and appropriate to the occasion. Instead of the usual arrangement of stalls, there was a series of fifteen military tents—three at the orchestra end, and five on each

side, with two double tents at the Paradise Street entrance for the reception of goods, which were liberally presented by the manufacturers of the town and neighbourhood. Behind these, and under the great gallery, were two large refreshment stalls (first and second class), which instead of being simply counters, at which creature comforts might be inconveniently discussed, were fitted up with tables and chairs, and rendered most comfortable. Over these stalls Miss Keating, aided by a number of young ladies, presided. The whole of the tents were richly emblazoned; and on the summit of each was a coronet in proper colours and gold, surmounted by a single feather and garter, with the motto, "Ich Dien." Behind these a flag staff projected, eight feet high, and to its summit was attached a tablet in white and gold, bearing the stall-holder's name, and dropping from each end were cords and tassels. At the top or dome of the tents fifteen lamps were suspended, producing at night a rich effect. The counters were adapted to the curve of the front of the tent, and were similar in outline behind. Between the tents was a column, with which the curtains were connected by cords. On the top of these pedestals were placed beautiful vases containing shrubs and flowers. The tents were of the regimental colours —green and scarlet. Lady Leigh's stall, which occupied a central position on the floor, immediately in front of the orchestra, was fitted up as a boudoir. Among its contents were a costly cabinet and a pair of magnificent Sevres vases, and an elegant mirror, surmounted with rich draperies, suspended from a tastefully-worked coronet. The whole of the floor, excepting a small dais in the centre for the convenience of the lottery wheel, was left open for promenade. The principal feature, however, was the orchestra, which was converted into a fortress, and from the battlements of which were pointed a number of cannon. Behind the latter were placed three tents furnished with trophies of arms, cuirasses, helmets, shields, and other polished articles, upon which the light was directed by a series of powerful

reflectors. The colour of the fortress was that of grey granite, against which the scarlet uniforms of the Scots Greys band stood out in bold relief. At the foot of each pilaster in the side galleries there was a large lion's head as a centre, from which radiated hundreds of bayonets; and the intervening space was occupied by a classic tripod, surmounted by an elegant vase, filled with flowers, shrubs, &c., disposed in graceful wreaths. From each vase was also a flag staff, 25ft. high, bearing a beautiful pendant of regimental colours with cords and tassels. The decorations of the great gallery were similar to those of the orchestra, except that at this end a colossal plume of Prince's feathers, 6ft. high, suitably draped, was substituted for the trophy.

One of the special features of this bazaar was the publication of a daily *Gazette*, under the joint editorship of Mr. T. H. Chance and Lieutenant T. P. Salt. This publication fully confirmed the opinion of the committee that it would add greatly to the interest of the proceedings. Messrs. Billing and Son generously offered to print the *Bazaar Gazette* in the Town Hall, so that the copies would be on the stalls early each day. The pecuniary result of this novelty was an addition of £40 to the funds of the corps. As many of the contributions were considered of sufficient merit to justify their re-publication, it was decided to issue the work in a volume, under the superintendence of the editors.

This elegant little volume is now before us, and as probably but few of our readers have seen it, and still fewer possess a copy, we select a few papers and poems, so that they may know what the *Bazaar Gazette* literature was like. The following is a list of the contributors:—Miss Keating, Miss E. Williams, Messrs. T. H. Chance, G. A. Stack, C. W. Williams-Goddard, J. A. Langford, E. V. Leake, M. Costa, G. Whateley, H. Bynner, Captain T. H. Gem, Lieutenants T. P. Salt and Williams, Ensign Potts, and Sargeant Smith.

The following is the preface:—

Korabundi the First and Last, Emperor of all Wallipotomia, had a great many fools in his dominions, and in nothing did they more exem-

plify their folly than in allowing such an idiotic monarch to reign over them. But dearest of all the fools to the heart of the King was Cheeko, the Court Jester, who was wise enough to profit by the foolishness of others, and who made sport for his royal paymaster in a grim, grotesque, and graceless fashion. But even Cheeko, though wise in his generation, made a fatal mistake ; for, growing weary of practical joking and rude horse-play with the King's lieges, he ventured to play a prank with royalty itself. He instructed the household that on a certain day the King would not dine at home. Korabundi sat waiting for the summons to table, and the fool enjoyed awhile the impatience and rage displayed by his royal master at the delay of his servitors in announcing the great event of the day. Presently the truth came out, and the King, whose appetite was fierce as his temper, had no stomach for such elaborate fooling, and cut off the jester's head, thus putting an end at once to Cheeko and his tricks.

The moral of this true and tragical story is that there is a time for everything. The motley must be doffed ; the cap and bells must stay their jingle for a time, and the god of laughter must hold his peace as well as his sides, while certain necessary facts are recounted. So we beg our readers, both fair and unfair, distinctly to understand that there are certain matters connected with the volunteer bazaar—and even with the *Bazaar Gazette*—that are no joke, and this editorial address is among the number. No matter what other departments of our journal may be written in burlesque, this article is penned in sober earnest, and is intended to excite sympathies as large as the type in which it is printed. In other places we may labour to tickle your risibilities, and make you laugh ; here, however, our design is to pierce your inmost susceptibilities, and cause you to bleed copiously in that vulnerable part of your anatomy whence the golden stream of liberality most freely flows. "It is the cause, my soul, it is the cause !" And, as that cause cannot be otherwise than commendable and good which has evoked such hearty co-operation in organising our Bazaar, we confidently expect all our visitors to show, in a very substantial manner, that they appreciate the privilege now afforded them. Lives there a man with soul so dead, who never to himself hath said, "I must do something handsome for the Volunteer Bazaar ?" For the credit of humanity in the Midland district we hope no such wretch defiles with his presence the ecstatic atmosphere of wealth and wit, beauty and benevolence, in which we this week live and move, and have our being : if there be any such, let him instantly depart hence, and be no more seen ; or let him straightway repent him of his sins, and enter into the spirit of the occasion with all the zealous enthusiasm of a new convert. Horace truly says :—

Non possidentem multa vocaveris
Recte beatum ; rectius occupat
Nomen beati, qui deorum
Muneribus sapienter uti ;

which, by a free and easy translation, may be taken to mean that the best way to secure that happiness which the possession of wealth alone will not secure, is to spend as much money as possible in the volunteer bazaar, and think yourself very lucky in having the opportunity of doing so much good in such a very agreeable manner.

To say that the Volunteers require aid is of itself a sufficient reason why they should have it, in any quantity. Our citizen soldiers are stalwart, brave and efficient—and they certainly look remarkably well in their new uniform. The girls who tolerated them in shabby grey must adore them in unobtrusive green, set off with defiant scarlet. Indeed, the favour shown by the fair sex to the rifle movement is an overwhelming proof of its necessity and deservings; for are not the ladies the true arbiters of taste? and were they ever known to bestow their favour and affection on any undeserving object? We pause for a reply: and if any misanthropic miscreant dares to withhold a triumphant affirmative to the first proposition, and a decided negative to the last, he had better not venture into the Town Hall until the bazaar is over, or—great as is our authority, and profound the respect in which we are held—we will not answer for the terrible consequences. The fate of Absalom would be a mere joke to the awful doom of him who dared to whisper one word against the good judgement and meritorious conduct of the fair volunteers, who in their own charming manner are helping the institution which has prospered under their approving smile, and which will permanently exist for their effectual protection. Long may our Volunteers, while cultivating the gentle arts of peace, continue to practise those martial exercises which fit them for the grand work of national defence; and may they never have to confront a more formidable force than that killing array of beauty which assembles to greet them when work gives way to holiday. It is no slur on the courage of our riflemen to say that they would prefer the generalship of Cupid to that of Mars: nor must it ever be forgotten that their readiness and capacity to make war has much to do with the preservation of peace. "None but the brave deserve the fair;" and while the ladies of England continue to uphold the Volunteer cause, nobody need doubt that in time of peril "every (rifle-) man will do his duty." As regards our bazaar—on behalf of which this appeal is specially made—all connected with it have performed their duty with unexceptional liberality and completeness; it remains for the visitors to emulate such a praiseworthy example.

Our next quotation is a *jeu d'ésprit*, entitled,

HOMŒOPATHIC SOUP.

Take a robin's leg—
  Mind, the drumstick merely—
Put it in a tub,
  Filled with water nearly :

Set it out of doors,
  In a place that's shady,
Let it stand a week—
  Three days for a lady.

Drop some sugar in
  To a fine pail kettle :
It should be made of tin,
  Or else the stuff will settle.

Fill the kettle up ;
  Set it on a-boiling ;
Skim the liquor well
  To prevent its oiling.

For thickening and salt
  Take of rice *one* kernel,
And to light the fire,
  Sparks from this our journal.

Let the liquor boil
  Half an hour, no longer ;
If it's for a male,
  You may make it stronger.

Should you now desire
  That the soup be flavoury,
Stir it once around
  With a stick of ivory.

When the soup is done,
  Set it by to clear it,
Then three times a day,
  Set the patient near it.

If he chance to die,
  Say that Nature did it ;
If he should get well,
  Give the soup the credit.

These verses were afterwards published in *Punch* as an original contribution.

One of the most characteristic contributions to the *Bazaar Gazette* was by a gallant captain, entitled,

THE VOLUNTEER INSPECTION,

BY

DENNIS MURPHY, OF THE BIRMINGHAM IRISH.

Air—"*The Groves of Blarney.*"

Och! I am fearing that you'll be hearing
From other people of a great event;
'Tis our inspection, when in great perfection
The Volunteer-men did themselves present.
In Bingley Hall then, the bugle call then,
Was heard on Saturday at two o'clock,
And the Volunteers drank up the beers,
And across the road did in great numbers flock.

Then, hot and piping, their wet lips wiping,
They took their places and filled up the ranks,
And in great clusters made up the musters,
While anxious Captains looked a power o' thanks.
From the right in fours then out o' doors,
With band a-playing, marched down Cambridge Street;
They all went that way although the back way,
'Cause Broad Street pavement wasn't quite complete.

The crowd admiring, and all desiring
To get a good view, were on the alert,
Of the coats and trowsers which we have now, sirs,
And short black leggings to keep off the dirt;
Likewise the shako and the haversack, oh,
To carry prog in or a handkerchief;
Or a pipe to poke in for a bit of smokin'—
A mighty boon 'tis—passing all belief.

Then onward driving, at length arriving,
They form in column in the Calthorpe Park;
Then in line wheeling, "the left" all feeling,
The gallant majors there you might remark.
The long time dressing, their good stars blessing,
And shouting "Steady" when they'd got it straight—
Sure the sight was wondrous, but 'twould be pond'rous
And mighty stupid did I all relate.

And the bould Drum-major 't would fill a page or
A quarto volume to describe the scene,
Of the volunteers and the pioneers,
And the gallant Colonel looking all "serene!"
Of horses mounted most greys were counted,
Caused by the regiment that is now in town;
When brave Dick appearing comes on careering
With Ensign Warden and Lieutenant Brown.

There was Major Elwell—and, truth to tell well,
His men with Saltley staunchly kept the ground,
And Payn and others—but my pen it bothers,
And 't would be tiresome to go all the round;
For the yarn I spin is like big McInnis,
Than most light articles more bulky far;
But the men's manœuvres were all *chef-d'-œuvres*,
With no false move or small mistake to mar.

Colonel Dick admiring the volley-firing,
Movemements, and exercise at this review;
Then to see perfection he made selection
Of the gallant Captain of bould No. 2,
Who not desponding, but quick responding,
Moved the battalion like a Brigadier;
Then he called on Buckley, who answered pluck'ly,
Like Misther Fechter, "Faith," says he, "I'm here."

The inspection over and all in clover,
The Inspecting Officer addressed the men,
Saying sometimes praises and butt'ring phrases
Do cause good soldiers to fall off again,
And lose precision, which must bring derision
Upon the conduct of this national force;
Then Colonel Mason, a smile his face on,
He made a speech, too, as a thing of course.

Then home returning, with ardour burning,
All the bould sojers feeling mighty glad;
But my ink's diminished, and now I've finished,
I know ye're saying, "Sure it's time ye had."
If you'd be knowing where 't is I'm going,
May be ye'll find me at the great Bazaar,
Where a mighty trade is done by the ladies,
Who, like their articles, most lovely are.

Our last quotation will be :—

THE WARWICKSHIRE VOLUNTEER SONG.

The noblest land beneath the sun
Is England fair and free ;
The home of peace, and truth, and right,
The home of Liberty.
As children, we her glories share,
Her glories will defend ;
The treasure that our fathers won
Shall to our sons descend.
May peace for ever bless the Isle,
Our swords be sheathed and dry ;
But should the hour of danger come,
We for our land would die.

Here in the heart of England born,
In Warwick's famous shire,
By Shakspeare's deathless name inspired,
We glow with patriot fire.
And thinking of our country's fame
Our blood more warmly flows ;
For home, for Queen, for altar, we
Would meet the fiercest foes.
May peace for ever bless the Isle,
Our swords be sheathed and dry ;
But should the hour of danger come,
We for our land would die.

O not for vain and idle pomp
The soldier's plume we wear,
And not to feed a boastful pride
The deadly rifle bear.
But still to keep this grand old Isle,
The strong, the brave, the free ;
To guard our rights, our laws preserve,
And hold our liberty.
O God, with peace our country bless,
Watch o'er her from on high !
But oh ! if war his standard rear,
Then teach us how to die.

This song was afterwards set to music by Mr. W. J. Jennings, dedicated to Lieutenant-Colonel Mason, and published.

The bazaar was a success. The receipts, including £636 10s. 10d. donations, amounted to £2,375 11s. 6d.; and the profit realized for the funds of the corps, was £1,404 10s. 4½d. At a meeting of the committee, held October 21st, Colonel Mason in the chair, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1.—That the grateful thanks of the Colonel, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and members of the battalion be presented to the Lady Leigh, for her kindness in furnishing and presiding at the stall, thereby materially promoting the success of the bazaar.

2—That the best thanks of the corps be conveyed to Mrs. Newdegate, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Chesshire, Mrs. Gem, Mrs. Hebbert, Mrs. Beard and Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Hawkins, Miss Soden and Miss Drake, Mrs. McInnis, Mrs. Griffith, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Burt and Miss Keating, for their munificent contributions, and for so efficiently presiding at the stalls, the arduous duties of which were discharged by them with so much ability, grace, and courtesy.

3.—That the lady assistants at the stalls be requested to accept the sincere acknowledgments of the corps for the admirable manner in which they aided the efforts of the stall holders on the occasion.

4.—That the grateful thanks of the corps be presented to the donors of money, goods, and other articles, for their liberal contributions, whereby the pecuniary results of the undertaking have been secured.

5.—That the thanks of the corps be presented to the Mayor, for granting the free use of the Town Hall for the bazaar.

6.—That the best thanks of the corps be awarded to Colonel Griffith, C.B., and officers of the Royal Scots Greys, for permitting the attendance of the regimental band.

7.—That the thanks of the corps be presented to the gentlemen who kindly undertook the management and publication of the *Bazaar Gazette*, to the contributors, and to Messrs. Billing and Son for gratuitously printing and publishing the paper.

8.—That the corps are deeply indebted to Mr. J. J. Allen, artist, of No. 2 Company, for his admirable design for the interior decoration of the Town Hall, and for the artistic skill displayed by him in developing his plans, which elicited the approbation of the visitors to the bazaar; and they request his acceptance of the grateful acknowledgments he has so worthily merited.

9.—That this meeting cannot separate without recording their conviction that the great success of the bazaar is to be mainly attributed to the zealous and untiring efforts of Lieutenant T. P. Salt, one of the honorary secretaries; and they desire to convey to that officer their warm and sincere appreciation of his valuable services.

Thus terminated this pleasant episode in the history of the Birmingham Rifle Corps.

On December 21, 1864, some of the officers and members of the corps gave an amateur performance in the Prince of Wales Theatre in aid of the funds. The pieces played were "The Clandestine Marriage," and "A Cure for Love."

The corps continued its varying existence from year to year; struggling bravely with its debt; holding field days and reviews; shooting for prizes; holding balls, and occasionally an amateur dramatic performance; but no event occurred which requires to be specially noted until 1866. In that year a considerable increase took place in its members, thereby establishing a claim of unexampled amount on the government allowance. The total strength in 1863 was 1,087; in 1864, 978; in 1865, 1,056; in 1866 it rose to 1,161. The number of marksmen had, however, decreased. In 1863 it was 116; in 1864, 140; 1865, 68; and in 1866, 90. The government allowance in 1863 amounted to £1,030; in 1864 to £1,044 10s.; in 1865 to £1,042; and in 1866 to £1,298 10s. The accounts, which were in a satisfactory condition, shewed the total receipts for 1866 to be £3,022 8s. 11d., and the disbursements £3,209 10s. 4d., of which amount £419 6s. 5d. was on account of debts previously incurred.

In 1866, Major Elkington, on his retirement from the corps, in consequence of indisposition, presented to the Warwickshire battalions the splendid Elkington Challenge Shield. Its form, although after the style of a Roman shield found on the column of Trajan, possesses a new feature both in outline and ornamentation. It is oblong and divided by a lozenge band, inclosing an oval medallion representing in *répoussé* relief an incident in the Volunteer Review which was held at Warwick in 1866 by His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, attended by his staff, Lord Leigh, Lord Elcho, Lord Ranelagh, and Colonels M'Murdo and Dick, inspectors of Volunteers. In the angle formed by the lozenge band above the oval medallion, a winged figure of Patriotism holds the shields enamelled of Warwick and Birmingham, with the

motto "*Amor Patriæ;*" and in the corresponding space at the bottom are two genii, holding the arms of England. Enamelled on gold in relief is the badge of the Rifle Corps, with the motto "Defence, not Defiance." The four divisions at the corners are enriched in *répoussé* relief by armour, munitions of war, ancient and modern. The scene represented in the medallion is taken just as the Birmingham battalion, followed by the county battalion, is marching past the reviewing officer. As a work of art, it is perhaps unrivalled. Major Elkington, on leaving the regiment, desired as an encouragement to the volunteer movement, to give the shield to be competed for by two battalions of the county annually, and to become the property of the battalion which should win it three years out of five. The contests took place in the years 1868, 1869, and 1870, the Birmingham Consolidated Battalion, under the command of Colonel Charles Ratcliff, being the victors on each occasion, and consequently becoming the possessors of the shield. It is due, however, to the county battalion, to remark that on all three occasions the bronze medal for the highest individual score was won by one of its members. The estimated value of the shield is £500.*

In May, 1867, Mr. J. O. Mason resigned the Lieutenant-Colonelcy of the volunteers, and Major Charles Ratcliff was promoted to the vacant honour. At the same time Captain J. B. Hebbert was promoted to be Major, and on December 18, his company (No. 10) presented him with a sword and an address.

The next annual meeting was held in the Town Hall on January 23, 1868, Lieutenant-Colonel Ratcliff presiding. It was reported at this meeting that the expenses of the past year had been met, and that in 1867 the corps had 1,009 efficient men, who had gone through their course of drill so as to entitle them to receive 30s. each from government. For the first time in its history the battalion was now free of debt. The number of marksmen had risen to 108, the largest it had reached up to that date. Of the Birmingham volun-

* A beautiful engraving of the shield appeared in *The Graphic*, July 2, 1870.

teers who attended the Wimbledon competition, nine had been successful. The following is the financial statement for 1867:—honorary members' subscriptions, £405 4s.; companies' subscriptions, £227 9s. 6d.; government grant, on account, for 1867, £1,258 9s. 7d.; other sums, £446 13s. 4d.; balance due to the bank, £85 4s. 7d.; total, £2,423 1s. The disbursements were:—outstanding liabilities on the 31st of December, 1867, £296 2s. 4d.; present year's expenses, £2,126 8s. 3d.; balance in hand, 10s. 5d.; total, £2,423 1s. The balance-sheet showed:—Liabilities, £240 1s. 3d.; assets, £558 11s. 8d.; balance £233 5s. 10d.

The Volunteers of the kingdom were reviewed by the Queen in Windsor Park, on June 20, 1868—the thirty-first anniversary of her Majesty's accession to the throne. On this occasion, the third on which the volunteer army had been reviewed by its Sovereign, 27,000 men assembled, but the result was, unhappily, not a great success. The Birmingham men, however, came out of the ordeal with flying colours, General Seymour complimenting Adjutant McInnis on their steady behaviour. The following is the field state of the Birmingham battalion at the review:—1st Division, Captain Gem; 2nd, Lieutenant Wills; 3rd, Captain Chesshire; 4th, Lieutenant Brown; 5th, Lieutenant Lord; 6th, Captain Buckley; 7th, Lieutenant Thornton; 8th, Captain Deykin; 9th, Captain Salt; 10th, Captain G. Beech; 11th, Captain Burt; 12th, Captain Hollis. There were present on parade:—field officers, 3; captains, 8; subalterns 16; staff, 6; sergeants, 58; buglers, 10; band, 29; rank and file, 620; total, 750. Lieutenant-Colonel Ratcliff commanded; Major Richards, Captain Mole (acting for Major Hebbert, who was unable to attend), and Captain and Adjutant McInnis were present. The Birmingham Corps, it was stated at the time, "marched with great precision, steadiness, and solidity."

The annual inspection of the corps was held in Calthorpe Park, on August 15th. Colonel Sir E. F. Campbell, Bart., was the inspector, who was accompanied by Lord Leigh. Nearly 900 men mustered, under the command of Colonel

Ratcliff, the drill and review lasting about three hours. At the termination of the inspection Colonel Campbell addressed the volunteers as follows:—

Colonel Ratcliff, officers, and men of the First Warwickshire Rifle Volunteers—It always affords me great gratification to come and see this battalion; for I always have something to praise them for in the way of improvement. On the present occasion I think there is the largest muster that I have seen since I have had the honour of inspecting you. The men have been remarkably steady, and the drill has been very good, especially in the marching past, which was excellent. The manual, platoon, and bayonet exercise were all very well done. I have great pleasure in complimenting you upon the manner in which you have acquitted yourselves. It has also been a great source of gratification to me to have heard of the excellent conduct of this battalion at Windsor. I know that you experienced a certain amount of hardship, for the weather was extremely hot, and you were subject to other inconveniences; but I know that your conduct was most exemplary on that occasion, and this ought to be a matter for both the county and the town you belong to to be proud of. I won't detain you, except to tell you that I shall have great pleasure in making a most excellent report of this corps. I always have to do so, and it is a great pleasure to me to be able to do so conscientiously. (Cheers.)

The annual distribution of prizes took place in the Town Hall on the 22nd of December, the Mayor (Mr. Holland) presiding. Mr. George Dixon, M.P., distributed the prizes, which numbered over 200, and were classified in the following manner:— regimental vase (Lieutenant Turner), £55; Scotch trophy (Captain Burt), £36; battalion prizes, £188 18s.; classification prizes, £150 1s. 6d.; sergeants' sections, £12 12s,; buglers, £12; volley firing, £17 8s.; drummers, £16 9s. 6d.; recruits, £16 12s.; marksmen, £33 17s.; extra colour-sergeants, £4 13s.; making, with the Elkington Shield, a total of £960 3s. 5d. Mr. Dixon also presented to Adjutant McInnis, on behalf of the prize-winners, a set of plated harness.

At the annual meeting, held on January 20, 1869, Colonel Ratcliff stated that since 1859, the battalion had steadily increased. On the roll there were 900 efficients, 138 extra-efficient, and 81 who were not considered efficient. The total

number that had joined the corps since 1859 had been 3,340; resignations, 2,221; leaving the battalion at this time 1,119 strong. During 1868, 142,000 rounds of ammunition had been shot at Bournebrook without a single accident. The accounts and balance-sheet for 1868, showed the following results :—

For work done and other liabilities outstanding on the 31st December, 1867, £325 5s. 10d.; Adjutant's allowance (£80), staff pay, cleaning arms, &c., £568 13s. 8d.; accoutrements, £87 4s. 7d.; advertising, £44 4s. 3d.; band, £211 9s.; head-quarters' expenses, £103 8s. 10d.; gas, £44 6s. 2d.; printing and stationery, £51 13s. 3d.; rents and taxes, £123 17s.; Windsor review, £133 6s. 8d.; rifle range, £196 11s. 11d.; repairing arms, £14 6s. 8d.; supplies received from War Office, £270 2s. 10d.; uniform, £281 19s. 3d.; Wimbledon entrance fees, £38 10s.; other small payments, and balance due from Messrs. Lloyd and Co., making a total of £2,598 13s. 11d. Receipts: balance in hand on the 1st of January, 1868, 10s. 5d.; subscriptions from honorary members, £382 14s.; companies' subscriptions, £303 5s.; government grant (including balance from 1867), £1,466 10s. 5d.; ammunition sold for private practice, £134 11s.; paid by members towards uniform, £215 6s. 10d.; other receipts, £95 16s. 3d., making a total of £1,912 4s. 6d. From the balance-sheet, it appeared that the outlay had been £581 10s. 6d., more than half of this sum (£300) being paid as rent for Bingley Hall, and the remainder being expended in meeting current expenses. In the shape of assets to meet these expenses there appeared: balance due from Messrs. Lloyd and Co. on the 1st of January, 1869, £411 8s. 7d.; subscriptions paid since the 31st of December, 1868, £13 15s.; due from companies, £117 5s.; other assets, £127 12s. 3d., making a total of £300 10s. 10d., and leaving a balance to be met of £280 19s. 8d.

On June 21, the Birmingham Battalion, the First Warwickshire, and First Worcestershire Administrative Battalions, met for brigade drill at Stoneleigh Park, by permission of Lord Leigh. The Birmingham Battalion consisted of ten companies, numbering 650 men, and was under the command of Colonel Ratcliff. The other staff officers present were Major Richards, Major Hebbert, Adjutant McInnis, Surgeon Yates, and Assistant-Surgeon Mann. The various companies were commanded by Captains Briggs, Burt, Brown, Deykin, Gem, Hollis, Mole, Salt, Walford, and Wrightson.

The annual inspection for 1869 was held at Calthorpe

Park on August 14, by Colonel Bruce. The following table shows the number of volunteers present and absent on this occasion :—

	Present on Parade.	Absent on Leave.	Total.
Field Officers	3	0	3
Captains	10	2	12
Subalterns	14	2	16
Staff	5	0	5
Sergeants	61	3	64
Band	14	4	18
Drummers	65	0	65
Privates	700	220	920
Total	872	231	1,103

After the inspection, Colonel Bruce thus addressed the Volunteers :—

Colonel Ratcliff and officers of the 1st Warwickshire—It is with great pleasure that I have inspected this fine battalion that has won for itself so much praise. It is impossible for me adequately to express the high satisfaction I have had in reviewing your battalion. The individual manner in which instruction has been imparted is far beyond anything I have seen in other battalions which I have had occasion to inspect. I speak with some authority, having for the last five years been one of the inspectors of Volunteers. I, therefore, can speak myself positively of the admirable manner in which the 1st Warwickshire have gone through the whole of the manœuvres comprised in the drill of this day. A more creditable performance would be impossible to be seen. The marching past was admirable ; the manner in which the line was formed, and the excellent firing, proves the great care with which instruction has been imparted. No men could have drilled better. But in speaking of them I make no comparison with men of the line, but with Volunteers ; and I again reiterate that a fine body of men, capable of going through their work in the manner they have this day, proves their high efficiency. The gallant colonel went on to say that he would take that opportunity of explaining the importance of officers covering correctly, and looking to their immediate front. He could not too much impress upon them the importance of attending strictly to that point. He had seen very much reason to complain of other battalions in that particular ; and he had noticed once or twice that day that in the echellon movements the officers were looking at their men instead of the all-important duty of watching where they were to arrive. There was hardly a necessity of

making these observations, and he did not do so in any spirit of complaining, but as a necessity to be observed in all military movements. He must also refer to the manner in which the manual and platoon exercises were performed. The correct command which the men had over their rifles again proved that much laborious time must have been given to have mastered them so thoroughly. He had on no occasion seen the bayonet exercise mastered so well, and he considered it quite an accomplishment to a Volunteer. It was the first time he had ever seen the officers connected with the Volunteers go through the sword exercise, and he must compliment them upon the manner in which they had gone through that exercise.

Colonel Ratcliff replied; after which the men formed into line, marched in slow time, and gave a general salute. The uniform steadiness of the men, and the ease and precision with which the movement was executed, caused Colonel Bruce to exclaim, "Splendid! Really splendid! I have never seen it surpassed in the army."

Colonel Bruce afterwards addressed the following letter to Colonel Ratcliff:—

Glendeuglie, Kinross-shire, N.B., 6th July.

My dear Sir,

I am told that you would desire to have from me a written opinion as to your ability as a volunteer commanding officer.

My report was fully and faithfully made in the inspection report drawn up after I had seen the battalion you commanded. I may say, in addition to that report, that I was quite satisfied with the mode in which you carried on your duty as commanding officer on that occasion; and, having inspected a great many battalions, I considered you fully equal (in so far as, on that day, I had the means of judging,) to the majority of volunteer commanding officers; while the battalion you commanded appeared in *remarkably* fine order, and full of spirit, and desire to excel—and I consider that they did indeed excel.

Believe me, my dear sir,
Very faithfully yours,
R. Bruce, Col. (h.p.) 2nd Foot,
Late Inspecting Officer of Reserve Forces.

The next event of importance in the history of the Rifle Corps was the visit of Lord Napier, of Magdala. At the meeting of the Town Council, held on December 7, the Mayor (Mr. T. Prime,) read the following letter:—

Pall Mall, London, December 2nd, 1869.

Dear Mr. Mayor,

It is with much pleasure I beg to inform you that General Lord Napier, G.C.B., Magdala, will honour the Birmingham Volunteers by his presence, on the occasion of the distribution of prizes, on Wednesday, the 22nd instant, and at which meeting your Worship has kindly promised to preside. I embrace the earliest opportunity to communicate Lord Napier's intention, as many of the citizens of Birmingham may be pleased to welcome the great hero of Magdala, who has won such high distinction by the unprecedented success which attended his victorious campaign.

I have the honour to be, dear Mr. Mayor,
Yours faithfully,
CHARLES RATCLIFF, Lieut.-Colonel.

His Worship the Mayor.

This letter was referred to the General Purposes Committee, with instructions to take such steps as they might deem necessary to give a proper reception to Lord Napier and his son, who had been with him in the Abyssinian expedition, on their visit to Colonel Ratcliff.

Accordingly, on the 22nd, Lord Napier arrived, and was was received by the Mayor and a large number of ladies and gentlemen in the Free Reference Library, when the following address was presented to him:—

To Lieutenant-General the Right Hon. Lord Napier of Magdala, G.C.B., G.C.S.I.

My Lord,

We, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Birmingham, rejoice at the opportunity afforded by your visit to this town, on the occasion of the distribution by your Lordship of the prizes to the Birmingham Rifle Volunteers, of testifying our admiration of your Lordship's distinguished military career; and to bid you, in the name and on behalf of the inhabitants, a cordial and hearty welcome.

We proudly recognise the splendid generalship and consummate engineering skill which conducted the Abyssinian expedition to the deliverance of our captive fellow-countrymen, and sustained the honour and glory of the British arms in Africa; and the brilliant achievements of the forces under your Lordship's command will be an example to all ages of what genius and valour can accomplish.

A campaign so brief, so bloodless, and withal so glorious—waged, as it was, in the interests of humanity—has not its parallel in history; and "Magdala" will ever remain a stainless victory on the scroll of Fame.

We sincerely hope that your Lordship may long be spared to enjoy the distinction you have so nobly won, and the honours which a grateful country has been proud to bestow upon you.

Given under the Corporate Common Seal of the said Borough, the 22nd day of December, 1869.

In the evening, Lord Napier and about 150 noblemen and gentlemen, including all the officers of the corps, were entertained at dinner, at the Great Western Hotel, by Colonel Ratcliff. The regimental band was in attendance, and played some choice music during the evening. Afterwards Lord Napier distributed the prizes to the successful competitors in the Town Hall, the Mayor presiding. The following is a complete list of the prizes awarded :—

Elkington Challenge Shield.—Presented by Mr. Frederick Elkington (late Major B. R. V.), to be competed for by the two Warwickshire Battalions ; five competitions ; won twice by the Birmingham Battalion.

Regimental Challenge Vase.—Presented by Mr. J. C. Dawes : small bore rifle competition, to be won three years consecutively ; won 1859 by Captain Burt. £6 3s.

Scotch Trophy.—Presented by the officers and friends of the late Scotch company ; to be won three years consecutively : won 1869 by Sergeant Albert. £6.

Regimental Challenge Plate.—Subscribed for by members of the battalion : winner of the plate, Captain Walford. Winners of cash prizes in connection with this competition : Captain Burt, Lieutenant Turner, Corporal Green, Sergeant Albert, Colour-sergeant Griffiths, Private Beech. £14.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Ratcliff's extra prize, £50.—To the three colour-sergeants who have their companies in the most efficient state on the 30th November, 1869 : divided between Colour-Sergeants Griffiths, No. 1 ; Perkins, No. 7 ; and Wills, No. 3.

The Battalion prizes, 1869, were gained as follows :—Corporal R. Betts (8 company), Lieutenant T. Turner (9), Captain Burt (11), Sergeant James Lilley (11), Private W. Brockington (1), Corporal T. A. Brockington (1), Corporal A. Parker (11), Sergeant James Weakley (3), Sergeant J. M. French (2), Colour-sergeant Derrington (10), Private W. F. Allcock (1), Captain Walford (5), Corporal J. Haden (2), Corporal J. Foulkes (8), Private W. E. Jackson (12), Sergeant H. Farmer (5), Corporal J. R. Green (7), Captain Brown (10), Corporal H. Lewis (12), Corporal T. Green (4), Corporal F. Jenks (7), Sergeant R. E. Ragg (4), Private G. F. Walker (1), Private H. Day (1), Ensign Lea (1), Private J. Bissell (5), Colour-sergeant G. Roberts (12), Sergeant J. Fletcher (10),

Private W. P. H. Foster (11), Sergeant J. Field (5), Sergeant J. Albert (9), Corporal McCracken (3), Private W. Ashbury (10), Private O. Davis (11), Sergeant A. Wallis (5), Corporal C. B. Pitt (3), Private W. N. Veisey (1), Private J. Wasdell (2), Private J. Clayton (12), Sergeant W. M. Cooper (1), Sergeant E. Hopwood (5) Corporal T. Woodland (5).

The Classification Prizes, 1869, were awarded as follows :—Captain Burt (11 Company), Sergeant J. Albert (9), Sergeant W. M. Cooper (1), Sergeant W. H. Tisdall (7), Colour-sergeant J. Buffery (2), Sergeant J. Weakley (3), Corporal F. Smyth (3), Lieutenant Turner (9), Captain Walford (5), Sergeant A. Wallis (5), Private T. Allcock (1), Sergeant J. M. French (2), Corporal R. Betts (8), Corporal T. A. Brockington (1), Private W. N. Veisey (1), Sergeant H. Butler (4), Private W. Beech (1), Colour-sergeant W. Griffiths (1), Private W. F. Allcock (1), Corporal F. Jenks (7), Corporal J. R. Green (7), Armoury-sergeant E. Phillips (1), Sergeant J. Lilly (11), Sergeant R. E. Ragg (4), Private T. Johnson (7), Sergeant John Fletcher (10), Ensign Lea (1), Corporal T. Woodland (5), Private H. Bates (3), Colour-sergeant C. F. Perkins (7), Captain Brown (10), Private George Hood (6), Corporal William Cox (3), Private C. Dean (8), Corporal John Foulks (8), Sergeant W. Wilkins (6), Sergeant H. Farmer (5), Private R. Davies (12), Captain Gem (1), Corporal T. Green (4), Private W. E. Jackson (12), Sergeant E. Davies (11), Corporal J. Edwards (5).

The best attendance prizes, 1869, £1 each, were gained by the following :—Corporal S. V. Johnson (1 Company), Corporal William Johnson (1), Private James Sweeney (1), Colour-sergeant John Buffery (2), Sergeant J. M. French (2), Corporal John Kershaw (2), Lance-corporal C. Pitt (3), Private Edward Durban (9), Bugler John Baker (3), Lance-corporal Henry Cox (4), Private W. R. Morris (4), Private John Wells (4), Private Thomas Robinson (5), Private Francis Jenkins (5), Private Charles Britton (5), Corporal Samuel Holland (6), Private J. E. Adams (6), Lance-corporal J. E. Cleveland (6), Corporal Thomas Dugmore (7), Lance-corporal Henry Smith (7), Private John Woodward (7), Corporal John Winfield (8), Private Andrew Perrins (8), Private David Whitehouse (8), Corporal John Twist (9), Lance-corporal H. W. Evans (9), Private J. A. Davenport (9), Sergeant Benjamin Knight (10), Lance-corporal H. Marson (10), Lance-corporal Joseph Barr (10), Sergeant H. Bishop (11), Lance-corporal J. Parker (11), Private J. J. Jones (11), Sergeant George Smith (12), Sergeant E. J. Braine (12), Sergeant Robert Alcock (12).

The Colour-sergeants' Prizes, 1869, were awarded to :—Colour-sergeants W. A. Griffiths (1 Company), C. A. Perkins (7), James Wills (3), George Roberts (12), T. H. Daniel (5), John Buffery (2), R. Rowley (9), W. Hipkiss (8), T. Jephcott (11), T. Derrington (10), Surman (4), T. Stretton (6).

The Sergeants' Prizes, 1869, best sections, were given to :—Sergeants Welch (1 Company), J. M. French (2), J. Gwilliam (3), H. Butler (4), J. Field (5), H. Brittain (6), J. Thompson (7), J. Harris (8), J. Overton (9), B. Knight (10), J. Lilly (11), A. E. Braine (12).

The Marksmen's Prizes, 1869, were given to Captain C. T. Burt, (11), Colour-sergeant J. Buffery (2), Sergeant J. M. French (2), Sergeant W. M. Cooper (1), Sergeant H. Butler (4), Sergeant J. Weakeley (7), Sergeant J. Thompson (7).

The Buglers' Prizes, 1869, were given to Buglers John Prichard (4 Company), John Styles (6), Alfred James (10), William Lakin (1), J. C. Baker (3), J. C. Ordoyno (12).

The Drummers' Prizes, 1869, were awarded as follows :—A Stevens, A. Adderley, James Chambers, Alfred Bricknell, A. Stevens, James Chambers, William Perry, George H. Lancaster, Henry Eaborne.

The Volley Firing Prizes, 1869, were awarded to Captains Hollis (12 Company), Chesshire (3), Deykin (8), Gem (1).

The Fifers' Prizes were given to Thomas Morrell (1st flute), James Carr (1st flute), A. Millington (1st flute).

The Subaltern Officers' Prizes, 1869, were gained by Lieutenant Adkins (3 Company), Lieutenant Mole (7), Ensign Lea (1), Ensign Lort (11) Lieutenant Chamberlain (1), Lieutenant Madeley (5).

On the 23rd, Lord Napier, accompanied by Colonel Ratcliff, the Mayor, and the Town Clerk, visited a number of the Birmingham factories, and on the 24th the General Hospital and the Central Free Library. His lordship expressed the warmest admiration of all he saw, and his great pleasure at his reception in Birmingham. Before leaving the General Hospital, Colonel Ratcliff suggested that Lord Napier should make an entry in the Visitors' Book of what he thought of the institution, and his lordship accordingly wrote :—"I have been much pleased with the general condition of this admirable Hospital. The purity of the atmosphere in the wards indicates that there is little room for improvement in the ventilation. The patients appear extremely comfortable, and have, in every instance, expressed themselves as grateful and well satisfied with the care and attention bestowed upon them.—NAPIER, of Magdala."

He left in the afternoon of the 24th, for his residence in North Wales.

The annual meeting was held in Bingley Hall, under the presidency of Colonel Ratcliff, on January 19, 1870. The efficiency of the different companies at this time was as follows:—

Company.	Extra-effective.	Effectives.	Non-effectives.
1	93	6	0
2	73	9	5
3	94	5	0
4	59	16	11
5	82	9	1
6	62	11	10
7	94	5	0
8	69	11	8
9	67	17	5
10	66	9	9
11	69	9	10
12	84	9	4
Total	912	116	63

Which gives the total number of the corps as 1,091.

The balance-sheet showed subscriptions from honorary members, £354; ditto from companies, £204 12s. 6d.; capitation grant for 1868, £1,488. There were outstanding liabilities amounting to £223 5s. 11d., against which there were assets, £218 4s. 4d., leaving a deficit of £5 1s. 7d. The capitation grant earned in 1869, and payable in 1870, was £1,501.

A conference of volunteer officers was held in Birmingham this month, and the following memorial was adopted:—

At a meeting of the field officers and captains of the Warwickshire Administrative and Birmingham Consolidated Battalions of Rifle Volunteers, held at Birmingham, on Friday, the 21st of January, 1870—present: Lieutenant-Colonel Ratcliff, in the chair, Colonel Machin, Major Hebbert, Major Richards, Captain Edwards, Captain Chattock, Captain Walford, Captain M'Innis, Captain Brown, Captain Salt, Captain Chesshire, Captain Briggs, Captain Mole, Captain Burt, and Captain Thornton—the Government proposals for modifying the capitation grant, and other regulations of the force having been considered:

Proposed by Major Hebbert, seconded by Major Richards, and resolved unanimously:—

That the Government proposals for the regulation of rifle volunteers appear to this meeting illusory, as regards the hope held out of additional pecuniary aid, by increasing the capitation grant to effective members.

That, regarded as a whole, these regulations seem calculated seriously to injure the present position and usefulness of the force, and to diminish the zeal and interest of the officers in its efficiency, if not wholly to destroy it.

We are of opinion, that as little changes as possible should be made in the present constitution and regulations of the force ; but the increased liberality, which was professedly the primary object of the new scheme, should be made real and substantial ; so that every effective member might be entitled to a capitation grant of not less than thirty shillings. We are also of opinion, that, in return for this increased grant, the members of the force should, if so required by the Government, submit to more stringent rules for securing greater efficiency among both officers and men.

We are also of opinion that the time has arrived when some consideration is due to the officers of the corps, upon whom have mainly rested the organisation, drill, and maintenance of the force, from the period of its establishment ten years ago to the present.

We therefore respectfully submit the following scheme for the consideration of the Secretary at War :—

SCHEME.

1st.—The Government capitation grant, when earned, to be at the disposal of the commanding officer and committee, according to the existing War Office Regulations.

2nd.—The present distinction of efficients and extra-efficients to be retained.

3rd.—The capitation grant to be 20s. for each efficient, and a further sum of 20s. for extra-efficiency in musketry practice.

4th.—Efficients to go through every year all the usual preliminary drills and lectures, with position and aiming drills, and attend six company drills with their own company, and six battalion drills—a minimum of twelve files to be fixed, without which no company drill shall count, and a minimum of four companies of sixteen files for battalion drill. Extra-efficients to pass into the second class, and to fire ten rounds in volley firing, with a minimum of five files for each volley.

5th.—Officers on the expiration of six months, after joining or promotion, to undergo such reasonable examination as the Government may require.

6th.—Officers who have served ten years and upwards, on retiring, to retain their rank.

7th.—All other existing regulations now in force to remain unaltered.

We are induced to urge most strongly the propriety—indeed, the necessity—for retaining the present distinction of efficients and extra-efficients, and increasing the grant to each extra-efficient, for the following among many reasons, viz. :—

1st.—That the whole charges for uniforms, ranges, drill sergeants, and head-quarters are incurred equally for every member of the battalion, whether efficient, extra-efficient, or non-efficient; the result being known only at the close of the year, when the official returns have been made to the War Office.

2nd.—That the proposal of the Government that each member shall either make himself efficient and earn the 30s. grant, or pay 30s. to the corps, has been found by experience to be utterly impracticable.

3rd.—That such additional aid has become more important, by reason of the War Office Circular of May last, requiring volunteers (after the example of Aldershot) to assemble for brigade field days, which the possession of such funds would enable the commanding officers to secure, by payment of railway fares and expenses for the men who assemble for that purpose.

CHARLES RATCLIFF, Lieut.-Colonel, Chairman.

In consequence of ill-health, Captain and Adjutant M'Innis resigned the office which he had so long and honourably held in the battalion. On April 2, Colonel Ratcliff introduced his successor, Major W. J. Tarte, to the corps. The resignation of Captain M'Innis was not allowed to pass without some special acknowledgment. On May 2, a public meeting was held in the committee room of the Town Hall, "to take into consideration the advisability of raising a fund, by public subscription, for the benefit of Captain M'Innis and his family, on his retirement from the adjutancy of the First Warwickshire Rifle Volunteers." The Mayor (Mr. T. Prime) presided, and the colonel, a large number of officers and other gentlemen were present. On the motion of Colonel Ratcliff, seconded by Captain Mackenzie, it was unanimously resolved:—

"That this meeting regrets that, owing to serious injuries, resulting from a fall from his horse whilst on duty in Calthorpe Park, Captain M'Innis has been compelled to send in his resignation as adjutant to the First Warwickshire Rifle Volunteers; and fully recognising his energetic services as adjutant of the battalion for a period of more than ten years, during which time he has contributed most valuable help beyond the strict requirements of official duty, this meeting deems the present a suitable occasion to raise a fund for the benefit of himself and family.

An influential committee was elected, and it was also resolved:—

That the fund now about to be raised be invested in the names of the Mayor (Mr. T. Prime) and Lieutenant-Colonel C. Ratcliff as trustees for the benefit of Mr. M'Innis and his family, in such a manner as the committee may decide; and that Lieutenant-Colonel Ratcliff be requested to act as treasurer to the fund.

It was announced in the meeting that the fund had already reached £500.

The annual inspection was held at Calthorpe Park on July 30, by Lieutenant-Colonel Roche, Lord Leigh, and a large number of military officers. An immense concourse of visitors witnessed the interesting event. The total number of volunteers who assembled on this occasion was 860, under the command of Colonel Ratcliff. At the close of the inspection, Colonel Roche addressed the battalion.

He said they had been engaged in drill for three hours and a half or four hours, and he must say that he never saw a regiment kept at work for so long a period without showing some restlessness and unsteadiness. Having watched them very closely, he was delighted to see them so exceedingly steady, and to hear that they kept perfect silence in the ranks. As a battalion he had seen very few regiments that could come up to them, both as regarded their appearance and the manner and good order in which their uniforms and accoutrements were put on. He must state, however, that the arms which he had inspected were badly kept, and must request that at any future inspection they would take better care that the inspecting officer should find no fault with their rifles. The inspectors had received distinct and express orders to see that the arms were properly inspected, and to report upon them exactly as they found them. The arms of three or four companies were not in that order they ought to be. However, he was satisfied that at the next inspection there would be no fault to find in that respect. They were old arms, and had been in their possession a long time; so that there was a great excuse for the order in which he found them. With regard to the movements generally, he must say that he thought the battalion might fairly go into brigade with any other regiment, for he believed that when a battalion drilled well in battalion it was sure to drill well in brigade. As he had mentioned to Colonel Ratcliff, some of the movements which they had gone through that day would be no longer executed; but when the new drill book came out, they would find no difficulty, from having been so well drilled, in getting into those movements; as he hoped in a short time to come and look at them quietly

and privately, he was certain that he should be perfectly satisfied with the manner in which those new movements would be performed. He should have great pleasure in reporting favourably of the 1st Warwickshire Volunteers, whom he considered to be an excellent battalion.

Colonel Roche afterwards addressed the following letter to the commanding officer:—

Dear Colonel Ratcliff,

I wish you to place on record my opinion of the battalion under your command.

I consider it exceedingly efficient, considering the many difficulties volunteers have to contend with in attending drill. I remarked that the Officers generally carried out your orders promptly, and the men moved steadily and silently; and I must add that you put the battalion through the movements in a highly creditable manner.

It is, however, to be regretted that Birmingham has not a brigade of at least 3,000 men.

Believe me, yours very truly,

EDMUND ROCHE, Colonel.

Birmingham, August 10, 1870.

As we have previously stated, the Elkington Challenge Shield was won by the Birmingham battalion. At the meeting of the Town Council, held on August 2nd, 1870, the Mayor (Mr. Thomas Prime) read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Ratcliff:—

1st Warwickshire Rifle Volunteer Corps,
Head-Quarters, Bingley Hall,
Birmingham, August 1st, 1870.

Dear Mr. Mayor,

About three years since, Major Elkington, on retiring from the Birmingham battalion, offered a magnificent silver shield of *repoussée* workmanship as a prize for yearly competition between the two Warwickshire Rifle Battalions, the 1st Warwickshire Administrative and the Birmingham Consolidated Battalion, with the condition that it should become the property of the regiment winning it for three years successively.

I am proud to say that the members of the regiment I have the honour to command have been the successful competitors for the first three years of the competition, and, therefore, the shield is now in my possession, as the property of the Birmingham battalion.

I have consulted with the officers of my regiment on the subject, and it appears to us, rather than it should remain privately in my possession,

that the most fitting destination of the shield will be the Art Gallery of Birmingham, where we trust it may possess a two-fold interest, and also as a testimony of the patriotic spirit of the inhabitants in establishing and fostering the volunteer force.

I am happy to say that the donor of the prize and the Lord-Lieutenant concur in the propriety of this course, and the only condition to be annexed is that it may be properly preserved, and the regiment shall be allowed the use of the shield for exhibition or other purpose which may be desired from time to time by the commanding officer, so long as the regiment remains an embodied force.

If you should approve of this course on behalf of the Town Council of the Borough, I shall be glad to confer with you as to the best means of carrying the proposal into effect.

I have the honour to be,
Dear Mr. Mayor,
Yours faithfully.
CHARLES RATCLIFF.
Lieut.-Colonel 1st. War. Birm. R. V.

His Worship the Mayor.

The Council resolved: "That the offer contained in Lieutenant-Colonel Ratcliff's letter, on the conditions specified therein, be accepted, and that it be referred to the Free Libraries Committee to make the necessary arrangements for the reception and exhibition of the shield." The shield, of which we have already given a description, is now in the Art Gallery, this trophy of the skill of our Volunteers having been inspected by thousands of visitors. The following is a copy of the inscription engraved thereon:—

Presented by Major Elkington, on his retirement from the First Warwickshire (Birmingham) Rifle Volunteers, as a prize for annual competition between the First Warwickshire Administrative and the First Warwickshire (Birmingham) Consolidated Battalion, and won, according to the agreed terms of competition, in three successive years, viz.: 1868, 1869, and 1870, by the Birmingham battalion. At the request of Lieut.-Colonel Ratcliff and the officers of the regiment, it was presented to the Mayor and Corporation of the borough, to be placed in the Art Gallery, as a permanent record of the Birmingham Rifle Volunteers.

CHARLES RATCLIFF,
First Colonel commanding 1st W.B.R.V.

The annual meeting was held in Bingley Hall, on January 18, 1871, Colonel Ratcliff in the chair. The statement of accounts showed that the capitation grant for 1869 amounted to £1,501. There was a balance due from Messrs. Lloyd and Co. on the first of January, 1870, of £50 10s., and the sum of £1 17s. 9d. was in hand. Subscriptions had been received from honorary members amounting to £325 9s. 6d. The subscriptions from twelve companies, £159 9s.; and rent for cottage and pasturage land at Bournbrook, ammunition for private practice, and interest, made a total of £2,366 13s. 1d. The disbursements showed that there was a sum due from Messrs. Lloyd and Co., in favour of the regiment, of £555 13s. and the balance-sheet, including this balance, showed that the assets amounted to £765 18s. 3d. The liabilities showed a credit balance of £317 3s. 4d., being the largest balance-sheet in favour of the fund since the formation of the corps.

The chairman informed the Volunteers assembled, that the board of officers which had met a few days before to look into the affairs of the regiment, had agreed on certain alterations, whereby new members, instead of paying, as they had hitherto done 30s., would be called upon to pay only 10s. for a new uniform, but for an old uniform, if they were content with it, it would be but 5s. This alteration, they considered, would be the means of drafting into the corps many men who hitherto had felt that the expense of 30s. was more than they were justified in giving, and at the same time it would retain many of the old members whose uniform wanted renewing. Colonel Ratcliff also informed the officers that, from an estimate he had made of the probable expenses during the present year, they would not be called upon to pay subscriptions to support the band, or even the corps, as the Government grant and other sources of income would fully meet the disbursements. He hoped, now that these heavy charges had ceased, the vacancies existing amongst the officers would soon be filled up, as gentlemen in future holding commissions would not be called upon to contribute to the funds of the battalion.

The strength of the several companies was as follows:—

Company.	Members.	Extra-efficient.	Efficient.	Non-efficient.
1	95	88	7	0
2	81	75	6	0
3	100	94	60	0
4	72	63	7	2
5	87	75	10	2
6	69	55	11	3
7	100	94	6	0
8	83	72	8	3
9	80	66	9	5
10	80	59	13	8
11	70	62	7	1
12	78	68	9	1

In concluding his review of the progress of the battalion during the past year, Colonel Ratcliff said it was gratifying that Nos. 3 and 7 had both made up their full complement of members, and no non-efficients, while they had each earned for the battalion £147. They had that year a total strength of 1,010 members, 878 extra-efficients, 106 efficients, and 26 non-efficients. This was, unfortunately, somewhat different to last year, in point of numbers, but they had fewer non-efficients. Last year the Government grant was £1,501; this year it was £1,423; but this sum would be considerably supplemented by the money earned by the sergeants and officers who qualified themselves for the extra Government grants, so that this year the capitation grant to be received from the War Office will be greater than on any former occasion. As to the ball practice during the year, they had 122 marksmen. It was gratifying to know that there had not been a single accident, though they had fired 130,000 rounds of ball cartridge. He congratulated them on the appointment of their new adjutant, and expressed a hope that they would maintain the high spirit which had first led to the formation of the Volunteer corps.

The presentation to Captain M'Innis took place in the Committee Room of the Town Hall, on April 21. The room was well filled by the friends and comrades of the gallant

officer. Alderman Prime (ex-Mayor) presided, and there were also present Rev. Dr. Wilkinson, Rev. Dr. Burges, Lieut.-Colonel Ratcliff, Major Yates, Captains Brown and Gem, Lieut. Campbell, Lieut. Tonks, Ensign Campbell, Quarter-Master Buffery, Ensign Lea, Mr. A. Forrest, Mr. J. Underhill, Mr. St. Clair, Mr. MacKenzie, and a number of ladies and gentlemen.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ratcliff, in making the presentation, referred to the zealous and active services of Captain M'Innis, which had resulted in bringing the battalion into as high a state of efficiency as any in the kingdom. The testimonial, which consisted of a silver salver, and contained the following inscription, referred to other services of the gallant captain :—

"Presented to Captain Peter M'Innis, on his retirement from the adjutancy of the 1st Warwickshire (Birmingham) Rifle Volunteers, with a sum of £800, invested by trustees for the benefit of himself and family, by the officers and members of the corps and other friends, the inhabitants of Birmingham, in recognition of the able and zealous discharge of his duties for upwards of ten years.—Lieutenant-Colonel Ratcliff, 1st Warwickshire Rifle Volunteers. December, 1870."

In acknowledging the gift, Captain M'Innis said :—

Mr. Chairman, Colonel Ratcliff, Brother Officers, Ladies and Gentlemen.—I am extremely sorry that I cannot find words to express to you the sincere feelings of my heart for the great kindness you have shown to me. I beg most sincerely to thank you all from the bottom of my heart. To you, Mr. Chairman, my best thanks are due for the great interest you have taken in my welfare, and for the honour you have done me in taking the chair to-day. And to Colonel Ratcliff, I cannot find sufficient words to express my gratitude for your kindness to me for the last thirteen years, and the gratification I feel at the soldierlike manner in which you have conducted the 1st Warwickshire since you had the honour of commanding it; and the kindness of heart, and the deep interest you always have taken in every member, is most praiseworthy—(applause.) No one can vouch for this better than myself. To you, my brother officers, my warm thanks are due for your kindness to me on all occasions, and for your strict obedience to my instructions on parade and at all times, and I trust that brotherly love and affection may always prevail amongst you as heretofore. It grieves me much to be compelled to part with you and my splendid battalion, which is second to none in England. We have spent many a happy day together since 1859. I assure you I shall always take the warmest interest in the welfare

of the battalion as long as I live. Ladies and Gentlemen, I beg most heartily to thank you for your sincere kindness in adding so handsomely to this splendid testimonial, which I have received to-day in your presence form the hands of my much-esteemed and dear colonel. May Almighty God let His loving countenance shine upon you and your families. I feel deeply grateful to you all for the great kindness which you have shown me—kindness which will never be forgotton by myself or family. And, my dear friends, I think it would be very ungrateful on my part to leave this room without offering my sincere thanks to my good friends who formed the committee, and also to my excellent friend Ensign J. W. Lea, secretary to my testimonial. I am proud to say that he can handle the sword as well as the pen, and that he is one of the smartest subaltern officers in the Volunteer force of England. And now I must use that painful word, farewell, and God be with you all.

Captain M'Innis and Mrs. M'Innis were subsequently invited to the offices of Mr. St Clair, where a splendid portrait of her husband, in volunteer uniform, was presented to Mrs. M'Innis. The presentation was accompanied by the following address:—"Madam, the undersigned, friends of yourself and Captain M'Innis, beg your acceptance of the accompanying portrait of your husband, by J. L. Lomas, Esq., as a testimonial of their respect to you for your matronly kindness and conduct on the trying occasion of your husband's illness, brought about by an accident in the field."

At the end of April and on the 1st of May, Colonel the Hon. W. H. Herbert, Assistant Adjutant-General of the district, was appointed by the authorities at the War Office to inquire into certain charges of breach of etiquette by the adjutant of the Birmingham battalion. The report of this inquiry has not been published; but one of its consequences was, that Colonel Ratcliff sent in his resignation. On June 16, Major-General Hinde, late colonel of the 8th Regiment, was appointed his successor. In the *London Gazette* of that day the following notice was published:—"First Warwickshire Rifle Volunteer Corps.—Major-General John Hinde, C.B., to be Lieutenant-Colonel, *vice* Ratcliff, resigned." On the same day, Colonel Ratcliff was gazetted a Deputy-Lieutenant of the county of Warwick.

The new colonel held his first drill at Calthorpe Park on June 24. Nearly 700 men assembled on the occasion.

They were divided into twelve companies, and marched to Calthorpe Park, accompanied by the regimental bands, which played alternately. On making his appearance at Bingley Hall, the general was received with applause, but he deprecated the demonstration as unmilitary. He said he had been appointed to command the regiment, and was gratified to have such a body of men over whom he had to exercise authority. He assured them that he intended to carry out the work devolving upon him in a strictly military manner. He denounced talking and looking about in the ranks, as volunteers were sometimes inclined to do, and urged all of them to act up to the position they had undertaken, and to be soldiers. When the battalion arrived at the park, they received the commanding officer with a general salute. They then broke into column to the right, and marched past. Wheeling again into line, they went through the manual and firing exercises, under the command of Captain Mole, who acted as senior major. This was followed by the bayonet exercise, Captain Gem, acting as junior major, giving the word of command. The battalion then retired by fours from the right, halted, re-formed line, and advanced in the same order; afterwards halting, and reforming into line. They changed front a quarter right, and reversed the movement into line again. They retired by fours from the right, and closed into quarter-column, where they were again addressed by the Colonel, who spoke well of the marching past, and of the movements generally. He expressed a hope that the duties of volunteers would not be performed in a desultory manner, and that every man would make himself thoroughly efficient, so as to command the respect which volunteers had a right to look for from their fellow-countrymen.

The following were the officers in command of companies:—No. 1, Ensign Lea; No. 2, Captain Briggs; No. 3, Captain Chesshire; No. 4, Captain Wrightson; No. 5, Captain Walford; No. 6, Captain Thornton; No. 7, Lieutenant Mole; No. 8, Lieutenant Perks; No. 9, Captain Salt; No. 10, Captain Brown; No. 11, Captain Burt; No. 12, Lieutenant Tonks.

FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY.

At the commencement of the nineteenth century, the Chorus Singers of the Triennial Festivals were, for the most part, engaged from London, Liverpool, (Lancashire Choral Society), and the Cathedrals at Lichfield and Worcester. The "Birmingham Oratorio Choral Society," the first large association of this kind formed in the town, was established in 1808, by Mr. Joseph Moore. The object was the permanent union for practice of the local singers engaged at the great Triennial Festivals. Its first conductor was Mr. Simeon Buggins. He was, we believe, succeeded, about 1820, by Mr. Thomas Munden, organist of Christ Church; a gentlemen of great skill and profound musical knowledge, who, a very few years ago, was living in retirement at Ruthin, in North Wales.

In the *Musical Quarterly Review*, 1821, is the following:—"Music, we have said, is ardently pursued and highly cultivated at Birmingham. Amongst its permanent establishments (instituted and nourished by public spirit) is a society under the name of 'The Oratorio Choral Society,' which is, we are told, liberally aided by the Governors of the Charity, * to whom in turn they reciprocate their most necessary and useful assistance. Here, therefore, is a band of chorus singers in constant training and progression, at all times emulous of employing and increasing their powers, and actually advancing daily towards the highest perfection, both by practice and occasional intermixture with the finest performers of the metropolis. Thus the materials for a solid fabric of musical excellence are prepared in rich profusion."

* The General Hospital.

At this time the Oratorio Choral Society was taught by Mr. Thomas Munden; whose name appears in most of the Festival schemes up to 1843, as Assistant Conductor. The choir was called together occasionally, and it gave its services every Christmas in aid of a fund for the relief of the "Aged and Distressed Housekeepers." The rehearsals for the festivals generally occupied about six months.

The first concert of importance given in the town, was one for the benefit of Mr. Thomas Fletcher, under the management of Mr. George Aston. This was in 1841. The band and chorus numbered about 300; the "Messiah" was performed, which resulted in a large profit.

When the Town Hall was built, (1832-34) the duties of teaching the choir were shared by Mr. Munden and Mr. George Hollins, who was first Town Hall organist. In a few years the choralists of Birmingham divided into several bodies, ranging under different conductors. There were the "Oratorio Society," under Mr. Munden; another society which had Mr. Henry Simms for its leader; and a "Philharmonic Society," conducted by Mr. John Freeth. The members of the "Philharmonic" used to sing at the Exhibition held at the Mechanics' Institute, in 1839-40. About 1840, an amalgamation of these bodies took place, due chiefly to the labours of Mr. George Aston; and a society called the "Birmingham Musical Institute" was established, the object of which was the performance on a grand scale of the Oratorios and other works of the great masters. It consisted of about 300 members, of whom some sixty were instrumentalists. The officers were, conductor, Mr. Thomas Munden; leader of the band, Mr. H. Shargool; organist, Mr. G. Hollins (who died during the first year of the Society's existence); orchestral director, Mr. Thomas Fletcher; secretary and general manager, Mr. Joseph Stevens. Each of the officers had a salary of £20 or £25 per annum. Amongst the works performed by the Institute were Handel's "Judas Maccabeus," "Israel in Egypt," "Samson," and "Acis and Galatea;" Haydn's "Creation" and "Seasons;" Mendelssohn's "St. Paul," &c.

In 1843 the Musical Institute ceased to exist, a disagreement having arisen amongst the members concerning the payment of salaries to the professional chiefs of departments, and also as to the demands made upon the services of the members for benefit concerts for the professional members.

The permanence of such a society as the Musical Institute could not fail to be of importance to the managers of the Triennial Festivals; so, when the break-up came, the Festival Committee established, in 1844, the society which now exists, as the "Festival Choral Society." The names of Lord Wrottesley, Lord Calthorpe, the Hon. Frederick Gough, and others of the nobility of the district were obtained as patrons, and the management was invested in the Festival Orchestral Committee. Mr. James Stimpson, who had recently succeeded Mr. Hollins, as Town Hall organist, was appointed conductor, and concerts, the programmes of which were generally of a miscellaneous character, were given. These concerts were for some years successful: but the society suffered a great loss in 1850, in the death of Mr. Joseph Stevens. From that date, mismanagement brought dissatisfaction amongst the members; the sick fund received little or no support, and the dissolution of the society was imminent. In 1855, the society was reduced to about thirty or forty active members. Happily, the existence of a consolidated capital which by the enrolled laws was forbidden to be distributed, kept together a number of interested performing members. The retirement of Mr. Stimpson from the conductorship had left the society without any professional director, and as a musical association it remained for some years in a state of complete inactivity. In January, 1856, Mr. W. C. Stockley was appointed conductor, and concerts were given in the Town Hall, with good principals and full orchestral accompaniments. When these concerts were first instituted, Mr. Stockley arranged with the professional players that one-third of the profits should be appropriated to the payment of the band; but sometimes the profits were so small, that ultimately an arrangement was made to pay a fixed sum. Anxious to

make the performances as perfect as possible, the prices of admission were considerably raised, and a subscription list was opened. The patronage of the public was liberally given, so that the concerts of the Festival Choral Society have now become one of the most successful musical enterprizes of Birmingham. Amongst the oratorios and other great works given by the society, since Mr. Stockley was appointed conductor, have been Handel's "Messiah," "Judas Maccabeus," "Samson," and "Israel in Egypt;" Hayden's "Creation;" Mendelssohn's "Elijah," "St. Paul," "Hymn of Praise," "Walpurgis Night," "Loreley," "Hear my Prayer;" Spohr's "Last Judgment;" Beethoven's "Mass in C;" Mozart's "Twelfth Mass;" Gounod's "Cecilian Mass;" Barnett's "Ancient Mariner," and "Paradise and the Peri;" Benedict's "St. Peter;" Bennett's "Woman of Samaria;" Costa's "Eli," "Naaman," and "The Dream;" Smart's "Bride of Dunkerron;" Howell's "Captivity," (the first public performance of which was given by the Festival Choral Society on the 13th of March, 1862;) &c., &c. The society has now upwards of 300 singing members; at its concerts a band of about 60 instrumentalists is engaged, and the performances are generally of very high excellence. The consolidated fund for the relief of sick members amounts to nearly £2,000.

Mr. Thomas Caswell was secretary of the society until 1860, when he was succeeded by Mr. W. Only Savage, who (1871) fills that onerous and important office.

BIRMINGHAM FREE PARKS.

THE provision of free parks, in which the inhabitants of our large towns may indulge in innocent and healthy recreation, is a subject of vital importance to the well-being of the people. As towns increase in size, the density of the population also increases, and with every passing year the need of public parks and the difficulty of obtaining them equally increase. The duty of providing such breathing places for the denizens of our over-crowded towns has only been recognized in our own time, and but few municipalities have even now been sufficiently impressed with its importance; and opportunities never to be regained, are lost, for want of that public spirit which looks beyond the present to the future. Many towns now, happily, have public parks; but these have, for the most part, been provided by the generosity of private individuals, and not by the local authorities. It is not a little creditable to Birmingham that it now has four free parks, three of which have been presented to the town and the other purchased by the Corporation.

It is now only twenty years since the first unsuccessful effort was made to obtain a public park in Birmingham. At the Town Council meeting, held on August 6, 1850, Mr. W. Lucy (Mayor) informed the members that Aston Hall and Park, of about 375 acres might be obtained for the town. The sum required for the purchase was very indefinitely stated to be from £100,000 to £200,000. A commitee consisting of Aldermen H. Smith, J. H. Cutler, J. Palmer, P. H. Muntz; Councillors W. James, J. B. Payne, E. Dollman, and E. Gwyther, was appointed to make inquiries and report. The committee applied to the proprietors for delay in the

time which had been fixed for an answer; and on September 29, reported to the Council that the request for delay could not be conceded, and consequently all idea of purchasing the Hall and Park was at an end.

Three years passed without any further effort being made; but on June 16, 1853, a meeting of working men was held at the Public Office, with Mr. W. Beddoes in the chair. Resolutions were passed declaring that it was desirable to establish parks and recreation grounds for the town, and that a united effort on the part of the working classes would accomplish the object. A provisional committee was elected to carry out the resolution.

The scheme now included a Public Park and a Crystal Palace; and Sutton Coldfield was fixed upon as the scene of this laudable enterprise. On July 26, 1853, another meeting was held at the Public Office to consider the proposal. Mr. S. Beale (the Mayor), was in the chair; there were also present G. F. Muntz, M.P., C. Shaw, R. Martineau, P. H. Muntz, Arthur Ryland, W. Luey, J. H. Cutler, D. Malins, Joseph Sturge; and Mr. Simpson, who said that he represented 10,000 of the artisans of Birmingham. The Town Council, on August the 2nd, elected a committee, consisting of the Mayor, P. H. Muntz, H. Smith, and J. Baldwin, to meet a deputation from the inhabitants of Sutton Coldfield on the subject. It was proposed that the Sutton Corporation should provide 250 acres of land for 999 years at a rent of one shilling an acre, and Birmingham should erect the Crystal Palace thereon at a cost of from £20,000 to £30,000. The Midland Railway Company were to be induced to provide a line and a station. It need scarcely be added that this proposal also fell to the ground.

On December 22, in the same year (1853), Mr. J. Baldwin (Mayor), called a meeting of the ratepayers to consider the propriety of authorising the Town Council to make application to Parliament for power to enable the Council to accept grants of, and to purchase, lands to be used as places of recreation. The object was advocated by W. Scholefield, M.P.,

J. H. Cutler, Joseph Sturge, C. B. Adderley, M.P., J. O. Bacchus, the Rev. J. C. Miller, George Dawson, and the Recorder (M. D. Hill). A resolution to that effect was carried unanimously.

Although this resolution was adopted by the ratepayers, no measures were taken to obtain a park. In 1855, however, Mr. C. B. Adderley, M.P., offered the Corporation ten acres of land at Saltley for a public park, the Council to pay £5 per annum as a nominal rent. In consequence of this and some of the other conditions being considered objectionable, the General Purposes Committee declined the offer. This elicited the following letter from Mr. Adderley :—

Hams, 23rd of August, 1855.

Dear Sir,

I have received from you a copy of the resolution of the General Purposes Committee declining my offer of ten acres of land at Saltley for a public park.

It appears that they have throughout misunderstood my offer to have amounted to a free gift to them of the land, though from time to time I have endeavoured to correct such a misapprehension, and to state it clearly to be an offer to give the land for the purpose of a Park on certain conditions, being the same conditions as land might be offered upon for the same purpose by other landowners.

There occurring a delay in any other offer being made, they asked that the conditions might be reduced to writing. I requested you to state them on my part, which I meant to amount to a very reduced rent, a voice in the regulations of the park, and a guarantee of the proper laying-out of the ground.

Objections appear to have been raised to all these, although the rent which you proposed was at least one-sixth of the real value, and being ntended more as an acknowledgment than a rent, I would willingly have reduced lower still; and the stipulation for proper fencing was not on my own account, but part of a set of park regulations, which they requested me to obtain from Manchester.

I should regret that the public should now be deprived of an expected place for recreation, by the offer having failed ; I will, therefore, myself, set apart the same space of ground in the proposed quarter for the public ; and as it appears (objections having been made to a fence) that the Committee had no intention of ornamenting the proposed park, such a piece of ground will serve as well all the purposes of a play-ground for all classes of people.

Yours truly,

C. Couchman, Esq. C. B. Adderley.

On December 14, 1855, a meeting was held, Mr. Brooke Smith in the chair; and after speeches from the Revs. J. C. Miller and C. Clarke, Messrs. George Dawson, R. W. Dale, and J. A. Langford, it was resolved that the gentlemen present form a society, to be called the Public Recreation Society. A sub-committee was appointed to prepare the constitution, and make the necessary arrangements for calling a public meeting, which was held on December 19, the Hon. and Rev. Grantham Yorke in the chair. It was then settled that membership should be restricted to persons of eighteen years and upwards. The institution was to include in its programme, lectures, newspapers, and periodicals, vocal and instrumental music, chess, draughts, bagatelle, backgammon, bowls, quoits, skittles, tennis, singlestick, and gymnastics generally. No gambling to be allowed; no smoking, except in the smoke room; refreshments to be provided, but all intoxicating drinks to be excluded. Women were to be admitted to the musical entertainments, lectures, and readings. A committee of fifty gentlemen was elected, with the Rev. J. C. Miller as chairman. Rooms were opened in Great Charles Street, but this experiment, like many others, failed; and on November 19, 1856, it was recommended that the rooms should be closed. A debt, which amounted to £100, was paid by subscription.

Mr. Adderley's proposal to give a park to the town did not fail. On February 29, 1856, a committee consisting of three workmen from Mr. Wright's carriage works, three from Mr. Marshall's, and three members of the Recreation Society, met Mr. Adderley and Mr. Couchman, to make arragements for the opening of the Park. This event took place on August 30; a dinner was provided in a marquee, to which 400 guests sat down; several gratulatory speeches were delivered, and a concert was given, the special feature of which was an ode, written for the occasion by Mr. R. M. Milnes, M.P., (now Lord Houghton) and set to music by Mr. W. T. Belcher. On December 9, 1862, the Town Council resolved to "erect a suitable and imperishable monument" to commemorate the generosity of Mr. Adderley. Accordingly his

portrait was painted by Mr. Weigall, and is now exhibited in the Art Gallery. On January 11, 1864, a free library and museum were opened in connection with this park. A large proportion of the funds required for this purpose were obtained by a bazaar held in the Town Hall, on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of August, 1864.

On April 1, 1856, the General Purposes Committee reported to the Town Council:—

That they had received from Mr. Whateley, Lord Calthorpe's proposals for letting to the Corporation, for purposes of public recreation, between twenty and thirty acres of land in the Pershore Road, by way of experiment, for one year, at a rental of £3 per acre. The land appears in every respect suitable, being in a pleasant and comparatively rural situation, and at the same time contiguous to the centre of the town. The following is a copy of the proposal:—'Lord Calthorpe proposes to let to the Corporation for *one year*, about thirty acres of land, at a pasture rent, for the purpose of recreation for the working classes, in *order to try the effect of it*, on the following conditions:—1.—That the working classes shall have free admittance at all hours of the day during the six working days. 2.—That no person shall be admitted on the ground on a Sunday. 3.—That all gambling, indecent language, and disorderly conduct be strictly prohibited. 4.—That no wine, malt liquor, or spirituous liquors be sold or consumed on the ground. 5.—That no smoking be allowed. 6.—That no horses and carriages be permitted to enter the grounds, except chairs on wheels with invalids and children. 7.—That no dogs be allowed to enter. 8.—That no games be allowed, except cricket, rounders, trap-ball, battledore, quoits, gymnastics, and archery. 9.—That bathing be prohibited. 10.—That Sunday and day school children be admitted on the days of their respective anniversaries. 11.—That a proper number of police officers be in attendance strictly to enforce the above regulations. 12.—That the fences be preserved from injury.

Lord Calthorpe removed the restriction of closing the park on Sundays, and the Mayor informed the Town Council, on August 22nd, that he unreservedly gave up the use of the park to them for the use of the inhabitants for twelve months, simply trusting in the Corporation that nothing wrong was done. On December 23, the Mayor reported to the Town Council that twenty acres were ready for use, and might be employed for the purposes of recreation at Christmas, and that the remaining portion of the land would be ready at

next Lady Day. Calthorpe Park was opened with much pomp and ceremony on June 1, 1857, by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, who cordially accepted the invitation of the Mayor (Mr. J. Ratcliff), for that purpose.

With the possession of Adderley and Calthorpe Parks, the desire to secure Aston Hall and Park increased. On May 22, 1856, Mr. Alderman J. H. Cutler moved, in the Town Council, that the General Purposes Committee be authorised to communicate with the proprietors of Aston Park Estate, and ascertain upon what terms it may be acquired as a public park and place of recreation for the inhabitants of the town. This feeling became general after the holding of the Hospital Fêtes in the Park on July 27, 1856, when upwards of 50,000 persons were present; and another on September 15; the result of which was a sum of £2,329 obtained for each of our Hospitals. The efforts of the Committee, however, again failed; and on December 2nd it was given up on account of the price (£61,900) asked by the proprietors for the land selected.

On May 20, 1857, on the invitation of Messrs. Reynolds and Reece, solicitors, a private meeting of gentlemen interested in securing the hall and part of the estate for a park was held, at which it was suggested that the Limited Liability Act might be successfully applied, and the necessary capital raised in shares of a small amount each. Accordingly another meeting was held on June 30, Mr. C. H. Bracebridge in the chair, at which the following resolutions were passed.

That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable to purchase 43 acres of land in Aston Park, including timber and the Hall, for the sum of £35,000.

That a Joint Stock Company (Limited) be at once formed for the purchase thereof.

That Messrs. Reynolds and Reece, solicitors, do at once prepare a prospectus and form of application for shares, to be submitted to a special meeting, to be convened by the committee, and that they take the necessary steps for forming the company.

The prospectus for the proposed company was speedily published. It proposed to raise a capital of £42,000., in 40,000 shares of £1. 1s. each, and it ingeniously divided these

shares into three classes, called respectively A, B, and C; the A shares to "entitle the holders to personal admission and certain other privileges to be hereafter defined, but not to dividends;" the B class "representing donations presented absolutely by persons desirous of aiding the ultimate object, and to be vested in trustees for the benefit of the people, the dividends on such shares being appropriated in the nature of a sinking fund, to the purchase of other shares, to be in like manner vested; so that Aston Hall may ultimately become free to all." The C's were to be ordinary shares, entitling the holders to dividends, but not to privileges. Such was the method by which it was proposed to raise the money by the promoters, who were, according to the prospectus, "actuated by a desire to preserve from destruction the venerable edifice of Aston Hall, with its historic associations, and at the same time to afford to the town the advantages of a park and place of recreation and amusement."

The time originally allowed by the proprietors for preliminaries had expired, but an extension was obtained, and the promoters watched and waited with hope, although not blessed with great results. Somehow the thing was not enthusiastically taken up. One promoter after another resigned. The machine did not run well, when some one, inspired by a happy idea, advised a plan for greasing the wheels and making it go. This was no other than an appeal to the working-classes. Accordingly the various manufacfactories were invited to send delegates to a meeting which was to be called to ascertain how far the working-classes would co-operate. On the 26th of June, 1857, a meeting of the delegates was held in the committee room of the Town Hall. Mr. George Dawson was called to the chair. The meeting was unanimous and enthusiastic; the object was approved; a committee was appointed, of which Mr. Dawson was elected chairman, Mr. J. A. Langford vice-chairman, and Mr. D. J. O'Neill, honorary secretary.

From the day of this meeting the work may be said to have begun in earnest. When the Working-men's Committee met, they found that there was no active organisation, and

that there was no money for carrying out the preliminary business of starting and enrolling a company. They at once proposed that a public meeting should be held, canvassers employed, and a fête held at the Park for the purpose of raising the necessary funds. All these recommendations were approved. Canvassers were appointed and set to work. On July 21st a public meeting, called by the Mayor, who presided, Dr. Miller, T. A. Attwood, W. Lucy, Henry Wright, C. H. Bracebridge, George Dawson, J. A. Langford, W. Beddoes, and others made enthusiastic speeches; the Mayor declared that he had put his "shoulder" to the plough, and would not turn back, knowing the fate which awaited those who did. Everything looked *couleur de rose*, and promised success to the newly-launched scheme. The proprietors granted the use of the Park, and the proposed fête, which was held on the 17th of August, produced a profit of £569 11s. 11d. This sum, though large, did not speak much for the enthusiasm of the people on the subject. When we think that at the Hospital fêtes no less a sum than £6,717 15s. 6d., or an average of £3,358 17s. 9d. for each day, realised a profit of £5,054 12s. 4d. for the charities, it cannot be said that they, for whose especial benefit the project of purchasing was devised, gave a very encouraging amount of support, or displayed an inordinate amount of enthusiasm on the occasion. However, the sum was a tolerably large one, and the working men deserve the warm congratulations of all for the tact and energy with which they began their labours.

Once more the scheme was in deadly peril. No sooner had the money been raised by the fête than the working men learned that the renewed time obtained by the promoters, had expired, and that nothing having been done towards entering into an agreement for the purchase, the proprietors had declined to make a still further extension, and had broken off negotiations. Perhaps, all things considered, and speaking after events have brought knowledge and wisdom, it would have been better had the matter remained in abeyance for a time, when probably more advantageous terms would have

been obtained. The working men seeing the object for which they had worked was in danger of failure, at once took prompt and decisive action. A deputation from their body was appointed to wait upon the proprietors, and ascertain if the negotiations could not be renewed. This was agreed to, providing they were renewed on precisely the same basis as before, the proprietors declining to alter any of the terms already explained. This was in September, and three months more were allowed to "test the temper of the town." Then a deposit of £3,500 was to be paid, and the company to enter upon possession. Two years were allowed for completing the purchase; the money to be paid in quarterly instalments of £4,000. The proprietors refused to make any reduction in the £35,000, but agreed to take £4,200 worth of shares instead of money to that amount upon the completion of the contract. With these terms agreed upon the deputation returned, and the Working-men's Committee suggested an amalgamation of themselves and the promoters, so as to form one committee. Mr. Langford was appointed secretary *pro tem.*, and an office was taken at the Odd Fellows' Hall. Mr. Thomas Lloyd, who had previously withdrawn from the committee of promoters, consented to act as treasurer; a call of 2s. 6d. per share was made, on the understanding that should the contract not be entered into, nor the company enrolled, the money should be returned. The following gentlemen consented to act as provisional directors:—Messrs. T. Lloyd, T. A. Attwood, C. H. Bracebridge, W. Lucy, J. Ratcliff, G. Dawson, J. Cartland, F. Dee, B. Dain, B. W. Goode, J. P. Turner, T. Bragg, E. Marshall, S. Tonks, W. M. Williams, J. Deykin, and H. Simons. These gentlemen, with an equal number of working men, were afterwards appointed the Interim Managers. The solicitors were directed to prepare the articles of association, and take the necessary steps to have the company enrolled.

On the 12th of February, 1858, the contract of purchase was signed, the first deposit of £3,500 paid, and on the 16th the Hall and Park were formally taken possession of by the

Interim Managers, for and on behalf of the company. In March the managers re-arranged their staff. Mr. Langford, who had hitherto acted as secretary *pro tem.*, was made share and donation manager, Mr. D. J. O'Neill was appointed secretary, and Mr. H. G. Quilter clerk of the works. The first meeting of the shareholders was held in the Town Hall, on the 30th of March, the manager and chairman of the company (Mr. John Ratcliff), presided, when the first report was presented. At this meeting an analysis of the Articles of Association was given, and it will not be out of place to give it here:—

The memorandum simply stated the object for which the company was formed—the purchase of the Hall and Park as a place of recreation and amusement. The Articles provided that a capital of £42,000 may be raised in 40,000 guinea shares, for the purchase, at £35,000, of Aston Hall and about forty-three acres of land adjacent thereto. The shares were of two classes, A and C, the A share to admit the holders to the Park and Hall on all ordinary occasions, and on Sundays, Good Fridays, Christmas-days, and all legally appointed holidays, but not to entitle to dividends, nor admission on extraordinary fêtes, nor when the Hall and Park are granted for charitable or public purposes. Donations (called B shares in the prospectus) not to entitle the donors to privileges or profits, but the money given was to be vested in trustees for the purpose of ultimately making the Park free. The C shares entitled the holders to dividends, but not to privileges. It was also provided that as the proprietors would not treat with a limited liability company, the persons who became responsible should be the "Interim Managers," and should be the governing body until the contract was completed, or until personal responsibility should cease. The Interim Managers were vested with the same powers as would afterwards devolve upon the governing body elected by the shareholders. The Interim Managers to report their proceedings, and present a balance-sheet annually; but to be *responsible only to a Court of Equity.* When the Interim Managers ceased to have any personal responsibility on account of the contract, the shareholders were to be called together to elect a council, which was to consist of thirty-six members, twelve elected by the A, twelve by the C shareholders, and twelve by the trustees. Then follow the provisions for voting. The Council, at their first meeting, to appoint nine managers, who should form the executive. The managers to be under the control of the Council, but no vote of the Council to act retrospectively. Three managers to retire every year, but to be eligible for re-election. No person to be a manager who was in receipt of a salary or other

emolument from the company. The duties of the managers were to provide museums, exhibitions, concerts, lectures, fêtes, and to do all things that may forward the objects of the company. The paid officers to be elected annually. Provisions were made for the transfer of Hall and Park, when purchased, to the Town Council or other public body; for winding up, arbitration, and the ordinary business of such a company. The articles of association gave general satisfaction to the shareholders.

The following passage is quoted from the report presented at this meeting:—

The Working Man's Committee had from an early period in their undertaking a strong feeling upon the necessity of making an extraordinary display at the opening of the Park; *and as soon as the success of the movement was placed beyond a doubt*, the working men thought if a proper representation was made to her Most Gracious Majesty of the purposes for which the park and hall were adapted, and the means by which they were obtained, her Majesty might be pleased to accept an invitation to inaugurate the People's Park. A deputation was appointed to confer with the Mayor upon the subject, and he at once undertook the initiatory steps for laying the subject before her Majesty. The result of these efforts is now known to all; her Majesty has consented to open the park, and your interim managers look upon this as the crowning success of their undertaking."

No Birmingham man living in 1858 will ever forget the enthusiasm with which the announcement of the visit of the Queen and the Prince Consort, "Albert the Good," was received. The day fixed for the Royal Visit was June 15, and the Interim Managers literally worked night and day to prepare the Hall and Park for her Majesty's reception. The gentlemen who most assiduously assisted were the late (alas that I should have to write "late") Sir Francis Scott, Bart.; Mr. Thomas Lloyd, Mr. W. Lucy, Mr. J. P. Turner, and Mr. T. Bragg. Sir Francis Scott presented all the publications of the Arundel Society, and at his own cost furnished a room in the Hall for their reception and exhibition. In consequence of this generous gift the Managers passed the following resolution:—

That, as a small recognition of the many and invaluable services which Sir F. Scott has rendered to the Aston Hall movement, and especially for his having fitted up a room with the publications of the Arundel Society, as a permanent contribution to Aston Hall,—Resolved, that henceforth the room thus furnished be called 'Sir Francis Scott's Room.'

To this resolution Sir Francis Scott sent the following reply:—

41, Eaton Square, S.W.,
May 28.

Sir,

I beg you will take the first opportunity of thanking the Interim Managers for the gratifying terms of the resolution, (a copy of which you were kind enough to forward me this morning,) respecting my room, and at the same time of assuring them that my time and services will be equally at their disposal after the excitement and enthusiasm of the Royal Visit shall have passed away, for the year and a half of hard work which must be necessarily undergone before the movement can result, as it ought to do, and shall do, in a triumphant and permanent success.

Yours obediently,
Francis E. Scott.

Friday.

The Managers invited a large number of gentlemen to be present at the Royal Visit. Nearly all accepted the invitation. Mr. Bright being unable to attend, sent the following letter in reply:—

Rochdale,
May 31, 1858.

Dear Sir,

I have to thank the Managers of Aston Hall and Park for their invitation to Birmingham, on the occasion of the interesting ceremony fixed for the 15th of June. I shall not be able to avail myself of their kindness, but I trust I shall not on that account be considered indifferent to the objects which the possession of the Park is intended to promote. I wish most heartily that you may have fine weather, and that the day to which you are looking with so much interest, may be one of unmixed gratification to the population of the town and neighbourhood of Birmingham.

I am, very respectfully yours,
John Bright.

J. A. Langford, Esq., Birmingham.

I quote from a letter which appeared in the *Birmingham Daily Gazette* on October 8th, 1863, the following account of the Royal visit:—

At last the "happy and auspicious day" has arrived. The "ever-memorable and famous" 15th of June has dawned upon an eager and expectant town. It is truly a Queen's day. The sun is gloriously bright,

and all is brightness, smiles, hope, and joy. The barriers are up, and thousands upon thousands of town people, black country people, white country people, all sorts of people, are in one unceasing flood pouring into the streets. It is difficult, in some places almost impossible, to pass along, yet all are patient, good-humoured, and cheerful. The Queen is to be at the Town Hall at twelve o'clock, and some time before that hour the streets are cleared, and the dense masses arrange themselves orderly inside the barriers which line all the footpaths, or take their places on the innumerable platforms which have been erected. The appearance of the Town Hall is a sight never to be forgotten. The side and great galleries are crowded with a gala-dressed audience. Along the sides of the floor seats have been provided, and here the wives and lady friends of the authorities are seated in all the pomp of millinery and jewellery, and the graces of womanhood. The orchestra is filled with the choir, and Mr. Stimpson officiates at the organ. The middle of the Hall was reserved for those who had to take part in the ceremony. Here were the robed members of the Corporation, looking like vergers; here the unrobed, looking like English gentlemen at an evening party; here the distinguised four who had been previously at court, dressed in court suits, and more than one of them troubled about the position of his "toasting-fork." Here are the consuls and vice-consuls looking very well, some of the clergy, and the six representatives of the Aston Park managers. I have scarcely had time to note all these things before a shout rends the air telling us that the Queen is near. A short time after twelve her Majesty entered, and all the company rose and received her in silence, as they had been previously admonished to do. It was, indeed, a very beautiful sight. The Queen took her place on the dais, bowed gracefully, and, with the Prince Consort by her side, *heard* (but I think nobody else did) the following address read by the Town Clerk :—

To Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland.

Most Gracious Sovereign,—We, your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, humbly offer to your Majesty and your Royal Consort our cordial welcome.

From the day of your Majesty's accession to the throne we have regarded your Royal Person with sincere and devoted affection, and we have long looked forward to an opportunity of emulating, with generous zeal, the ardent loyalty of our fellow subjects in other great cities of your empire.

Now that the joyful moment has arrived, we approach the Throne with no common emotion; we feel the liberty and security we enjoy; we appreciate the bright example of your Majesty' virtues; and we humbly thank Almighty God for having blessed us with so good a Queen.

In the name of the vast community we represent, we humbly beg to convey to your Majesty our cordial thanks for the signal honour which your Majesty has deigned to confer upon the borough of Birmingham, and our heartfelt wishes that your Majesty may long be spared to receive the grateful homage of a loyal and devoted people.

Given under our corporate common seal this 15th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1858, and in the 21st year of your Majesty's reign."

This document which was highly emblazoned by Mr. Preston, and beautifully mounted, was then presented to her Majesty, who handed it to Mr. Walpole, and she received from him the following gracious reply:—

I have received with pleasure your loyal and dutiful Address, expressing your sincere and devoted affection to my person and my throne.

It is most gratifying to me to have the opportunity of visiting this ancient and enterprising town, the centre of so much of our manufacturing industry; and I trust you may long remain in the full enjoyment of that liberty and security, without which even industry itself must fail to reap its appropriate reward.

I desire you will convey to the vast community which you represent, my sincere thanks for their cordial welcome, assuring them at the same time of the pleasure I have derived from witnessing the great and increasing prosperity of Birmingham and its neighbourhood.

An address was also presented to the Prince. Then her Majesty whispered to Lord Delaware, and Lord Delaware whispered to the Mayor, who was robed and chained; and then the Mayor knelt down, the Queen laid a sword across his shoulder, and he arose Sir John Ratcliff. Four Members of the Town Council, Aldermen J. Palmer, T. Phillips, T. R. T. Hodgson, and J. H. Cutler, were formally presented to the Queen and kissed the royal hand; and the other Members of the Council were presented. The ceremony over, the Queen retired, and was followed by such a burst of cheers as must have astonished and delighted the generous-hearted woman in whose honour they were given.

The Queen accompanied by the procession rode slowly through streets thronged with spectators, to Aston Hall. Here her Majesty partook of luncheon, and then proceeded to the Great Gallery, in which, as soon as she and the Prince Consort had reached the dais, Sir Francis E. Scott read the following address:—

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

May it please your Most Gracious Majesty,—We, the undersigned, the Interim Managers of Aston Hall and Park, beg leave to approach your Majesty with the earnest assurance of our devoted loyalty to your Majesty's throne and person, and humbly acknowledge the great honour conferred upon us, and those whom we represent, by your Majesty's auspicious presence to inaugurate Aston Hall and Park.

We rejoice in the happy experience that your Majesty's reign has been preëminently distinguised by the disinterested, assiduous, and successful efforts that have been directed to the improvement of the moral, intellectual, and social condition of the working classes; and that this noble cause has ever received from your Majesty the warmest sympathy and encouragement.

In addition to the historical interest and kingly reminiscences of Aston Hall, and the picturesque feature of its architecture which will at once be appreciated by your Majesty and your Royal Consort, we venture to bespeak your Majesty's kind interest in the peculiar circumstances under which the Park and Hall have been purchased.

In some towns in your Majesty's dominions public parks have wisely been provided by wealthy Corporations; in others by the munificence of philanthropic citizens; here, also, we are indebted to private liberality for two places of recreation for the people; but to Birmingham alone has it been given to secure by her own exertions an ancient Park for the physical relaxation—an ancient Hall for the mental cultivation—of her variously employed and laborious population.

Your Majesty will, we believe, be gratified to learn that Aston Hall and Park have been acquired for the most part by the industry and economy of the people themselves. Of the money required for this purpose a very large proportion has been subscribed by the working classes, a circumstance which we venture to hope will not be without interest and satisfaction to your Majesty.

It is with feelings of pleasure and gratitude that the Interim Managers record that although Birmingham is not distinguished for the individual wealth of its citizens, their undertaking has, from the first, been greatly indebted to those members of the richer classes who are happily always ready to aid in every good and noble work; but chiefest among the generous recognition of the importance of this undertaking, they place the condescension of your Majesty in thus honouring the inauguration with your most gracious presence.

The Interim Managers would also express their hope that the preservation of Aston Hall and Park, by the efforts of the artisans of Birmingham, may not be without influence as an example and encouragement to those of other towns.

That Almighty God may watch over and protect your most gracious Majesty, and your Majesty's Royal Consort ; that He may bless your Majesty's auspicious reign ; that peace, piety, and prosperity may ever possess our land ; that education and order may concurrently increase and support each other ; and that your Majesty's Royal Children and children's children may ever live, as your Majesty lives, in the hearts of the people, is the earnest prayer of your Majesty's devoted and obedient servants.

John Ratcliff
Charles Holte Bracebridge
Thomas Aurelius Attwood
Thomas Lloyd
William Lucy
John P. Turner
Edwin Marshall
George Dawson
James Deykin
Frederic Dee
John Cartland
Henry Simons
Benjamin William Goode
Benjamin Dain
Thomas Bragg
William Mattieu Williams
Samuel Tonks
Henry George Quilter
Charles Hawkesford
George Tarplee
Henry Bourne
Mark Lees
W. H. Reece
Henry Reynolds
Daniel Joseph O'Neill
Caleb Cash
Edward Nicholls
Charles Thompson
Thomas Twiss
Josiah Metcalf
John Alfred Langford
Philip Gee
Thomas Chapman
William Pratt
Samuel Partridge
Benjamin Ashby
Joseph Hinton
Joseph Banner
Samuel Barnett
William Sharpe
Thomas Billson
Jacob Moore
Edward Allen

As the chief sentences were read, her Majesty gracefully bowed her acquiescence, and having had the address handed to her, she delivered it to Mr. Secretary Walpole, and read the following reply in her own charmingly emphatic manner :—

I sincerely thank you for your loyal assurance of devoted attachment to my throne and person.

The improvement of the moral, intellectual, and social condition of my people will always command my earnest attention ; and in opening this Hall and Park to-day, I rejoice to have another opportunity of promoting their comfort and innocent recreation.

Four of the Interim Managers, namely, W. Lucy, T. Lloyd, J. P. Turner, and J. A. Langford, had the honour of a formal presentation, and kissed hands. Her Majesty showed her appreciation of the part which the working men had taken in this work by having Messrs. T. Twiss, G. Tarplee, C. Hawkesford, H. G. Quilter, H. Bourne, M. Lees, D. J. O'Neill, and S. Partridge, all members of the committee, called before her, and thus addressing them:—"I recognise with pleasure the labour you have undertaken in providing thus worthily for the physical and intellectual improvement of the working classes, and I sincerely hope that this Hall and Park will prove a boon and a comfort to the people of Birmingham." This is indeed conferring a cross of honour on working-men. Those who witnessed this incident in the day's proceedings will not easily forget it, and those who were the objects of the royal address never.

The remainder of the Interim Managers were then presented,—the solicitors, Messrs. Reynolds and Reece; Mr. Hakewell, the exhibition manager; and Mr. W. C. Aitken, to whose labours, abilities, and disinterested help the committee were much indebted. The latter gentleman had the honour of presenting a beautifully-bound copy of the "Official Handbook and Catalogue" to the Queen. Sir F. E. Scott also presented to her Majesty a Gold Medal, struck in honour of the event by Mr. J. Moore. On one side is an exquisitely-cut view of the front of the Hall, bearing the inscription—"Aston Hall, Begun 1618, Completed 1635;" and underneath are the words, "Bought (with forty-three acres of Park) by the People of Birmingham." On the reverse is an excellent medallion Portrait of the Queen, surrounded by a wreath of rose, shamrock, and thistle, and thus inscribed:—"To Commemorate the Visit of Her Most Gracious Majesty to Birmingham, 15th June, 1858, to Open Aston Hall and Park as a Place of Public Recreation. John Ratcliff, Esq., Mayor,"

This ceremony over, her Majesty passed from the grand gallery on to the balcony whence she was to open the Park. She was received with the most deafening cheers; and here

she said to Sir F. E. Scott, "I request you will have the kindness to declare that the Park is now open." The Queen paused for some time here to survey the beauty of the scene which was spread before her. The view from this spot is magnificent. Before her was the grand sycamore avenue with its trees in their summer glory; the noble pool with its far-spreading trees bowing over and kissing the sweet waters which joyously reflected their beautiful forms, a picture within a picture. On the right were to be seen Oscott, Bar-Beacon, Sutton Common, Park, and Wood. But nobler, grander, and more beautiful than all these natural objects were the upturned, cheerful, welcoming faces of the thousands of men and women who were there assembled to meet and greet their Queen. No wonder her Majesty expressed herself so thoroughly pleased with all the arrangements at Aston Hall. The enthusiasm was immense; but this increased when the Queen walked along the terrace in the midst of the people—face to face with the men who love freedom, yet respect and venerate law and authority. The rulers of the Continent ought to read of these royal progresses in England, and profit by the lesson.

The departure was equal to the reception; and the Queen left Birmingham, thus addressing the newly-knighted Mayor: "Sir John, I am very much pleased; I am very much delighted with all the proceedings of this day. It is the finest reception I have ever received." The memorials of her visit which her Majesty bore away with her included, amongst others, the medal of Mr. Moore; the catalogue of Mr. Aitken; the Town address, beautifully emblazoned by Mr. Preston; the Aston Hall address, which was a fair specimen of the artistic powers of Mr. Pitman, who generously offered his services to the Managers for this interesting work; the Official Programme of Mr. Maher; and last, though not least, two of the glasses manufactured by the Messrs. Osler expressly for the table of the luncheon room. She left behind her in the visitors' book at Aston Hall her own bold and decisively-written autograph, and her own image deeply impressed in the hearts of all her Birmingham subjects.

Subsequently her Majesty expressed her sense of the proceedings both to the Corporation and the Interim Managers. The Mayor received the following:—

Whitehall, 17th June, 1858.

Sir,

It is my pleasing duty to inform you that I have received the Queen's commands, to signify to you her Majesty's entire approval of the arrangements which were made on the occasion of her Majesty's recent visit to the Borough of Birmingham, and further to express to you the sincere gratification which her Majesty derived from the universal loyalty, as well as the admirable and orderly behaviour of the large numbers of her faithful people, whom her Majesty rejoiced to see present.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

The Mayor of Birmingham. S. H. Walpole.

The Interim Managers were honoured with an expression of her Majesty's pleasure:—

Whitehall, 17th June, 1858.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in signifying to you, in obedience to the Queen's commands, her Majesty's entire approval of the admirable arrangements which were made for her reception, on the occasion of her recent visit to Aston Hall and Park.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your odedient servant,

S. H. Walpole.

The enthusiasm which preceded the Queen's visit, and which reached the highest of high-water-marks on the notable 15th of June, was as evanescent as it was uproarious. Scarcely had the last cheer which greeted her Majesty's ears ceased—scarcely had the last glass been drunk at the Mayor's famous Town Hall Banquet, than the consequent reaction set in. The Queen had been; the long desired Royal visit had been paid; Birmingham had been complimented for the magnificence and earnestness of its reception; gracious words of gracious praise had fallen from the Royal lips. Birmingham for a moment was happy, delirious with joy, and intoxicated with bliss. An unexpected pleasure had been granted to us. That we, the so-called most democratic people in England,

should have thus been honoured was more than we could well bear, and we were proportionately jubilant in our self-laudation and self-congratulation. But in the midst of all this perhaps natural outburst the object for which the Queen came to the town was forgotten. The public ceased to take shares, or to give donations. Those who had taken shares and paid the three calls which enabled them to be at the Park on the inauguration day, ceased for the most part to pay up their shares. The A shareholders, the only class who have derived any advantages from the existence of the company, began to grumble about their privileges, and a noisy meeting was held in the Park to consider the subject. The result was that the shareholders adopted the managers' proposals, and the privileges of the "A's" were now settled. An A share entitled the holder *or* his wife and children under twelve to *free admission* to the Park on all days on which no fête or public entertainment was being held; and himself *and wife and children* to free admission on Sundays, Good Fridays, Christmas Days, and all legally appointed holidays. It also entitled the holder to admission to the exhibition, flower shows, Easter and Christmas Festivities, and other entertainments at half the price paid by the public. No institution yet founded ever offered to its subscribers such privileges for such a sum. It was not, be it remembered, a payment that had to be repeated. The guinea once paid was paid for ever, and the privileges would exist as long as the Park, or until the shareholders themselves chose to alter them.

It was soon clear to the managers that, unless some new method was devised, there was little hope of carrying out their contract with the proprietors, and thus the additional burden of interest for the unpaid deposits would have to be met. In consequence of this state of things Mr. Thomas Lloyd addressed a letter to the Mayor, Sir John Ratcliff, on the subject, proposing to raise the sum of £10,000, in order that the purchase of the Park might be placed beyond doubt. I quote two paragraphs of this letter:—

You have very nobly pledged yourself to devote your time and means to the town of which you have been thrice Mayor. It is your cause. The Queen's visit is to you made memorable by the honour you received on that great occasion. To you, therefore, we look for help. Assist us with your purse, and, more than all, with your example. Head a subscription. I will, with perhaps less scruple than the claims of my family would justify, but which this occasion demands, follow, at some distance, and give £1,000. Let those who have before supported us again respond, and those who did not, cannot refuse now that the credit of the town is so deeply involved. With a little self-sacrifice we shall perform our promise to the Queen; for every one who took part in the reception of the Queen did promise to make Aston Park a Free Park. I add this condition. It is a workman's affair, and the workmen have done well; but I would make the payment of the subscriptions depend upon the co-operation of the employed, and their subscribing half the amount required, which must be at least £10,000.

This letter was published in December, 1858; but Sir John declined the challenge, and the general public did not respond. In consequence of this letter, and in order to see how far the shareholders would co-operate, a meeting was held in the Music Hall, on January 21st, 1859. At this meeting a vote of confidence in the Interim Managers was passed, and a canvassing committee was appointed. This committee afterwards organized and carried out the successful colossal fête.

In March of the same year the first annual meeting was held, and the first annual report and balance-sheet were presented; the latter a most discouraging document. From all sources of income on the capital account £11,426 7s. 5d. had been raised; of this sum £7,000 had been paid on account of the purchase, and no less than £6,244 17s. 6½d. on erections, alterations, and preliminary expenses. Thus the expenditure on the capital account had exceeded the receipts by no less a sum than £1,818 10s. 1½d. A similar result is found in the income and expenditure account. I find that the inauguration cost £3,314 5s. 7d., and produced £1,900 13s. 4d.; loss, £1,413 12s. 3d. The whole gains from the summer fêtes was the insignificant sum of £214 15s. 9d., while the exhibition produced the handsome profit of £1,233 2s. 10d.; but then the glass building, to which this success has been (I think erroneously) ascribed, cost £1,335 2s. 5d. The total earnings

of the year produced £1,619 15s. 8d.; the total expenditure was, including the loss on the inauguration, £3,163 6s. 5½d.; the total loss on this account £1,543 10s. 9½d.; or, taking capital and income and expenditure accounts together, the year showed a loss of £3,362 0s. 11d. Here is the official

BALANCE SHEET, 1ST MARCH, 1859.

	£	s.	d.
Amount due to sundry persons	2,100	18	0½
Ditto to bankers	1,802	7	4
Ditto to D. J. O'Neill	12	6	10
Suspense account	0	10	5
	£3,916	2	7½
Excess of Expenditure on Capital Account	1,818	10	1½
Ditto ditto Income and Expenditure Account	1,543	10	9½
Refreshment rooms, stock, and fittings	532	14	5
Amount due from sundry persons	10	19	6
H. G. Quilter, cash in hand	10	7	9½
	£3,916	2	7½

This, however, is success itself compared with the result shown in 1860.

I annex a statement of the condition of the company at this date:—

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.
Balance of purchase	28,000	0	0
Due to bankers	1,802	7	4
Due to sundry persons	2,113	4	10
	£31,915	12	2

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.
Due on calls	9,208	0	0
Proprietors' shares	4,200	0	0
Refreshment room stock and plant	532	14	5
Due from sundry persons	10	19	6
H. G. Quilter, cash in hand	10	7	9½
Balance to be raised	17,953	10	5½
	£31,915	12	2

The progress made in the share list during the year was very small. In the report issued in March, 1858, it was stated that more than 20,000 shares had been applied for. In 1859 it was reported that the share list stood thus:—10,465 A shares, held by 7,361 persons; 3,801 B shares (or donations), contributed by 382 persons; 6,450 C shares, held by 1,249 shareholders; and 4,000 shares guaranteed by the proprietors; or a total of 24,716 shares. Of these, however, the report said, 1,700 shares were bad (this number afterwards reached to 3,492), or upon which no deposit had been paid.

This state of things, however, did not intimidate the sanguine Interim Managers. They were still as confident and as plucky as ever. They did not know what was coming, nor what a disastrous year 1860 would prove to them; nor did they believe that the town would allow such a work to fail for the want of support. Their report stated that the year had been one of great trial, and regretted that the town had "not more warmly responded to their call, and placed the project of saving Aston Hall and Park in a much more favourable position." "The Interim Managers," it boldly adds, "do not doubt of ultimate success." It concludes with the following paragraph:—

> The Interim Managers have had peculiar difficulties of a local, personal, and social character, to withstand, in addition to the gigantic task of raising the purchase money, and they can fearlessly assert that their sole object has been to achieve the good work they have begun. *They hope either to finally accomplish this during the present year, or at least to place the project in a position beyond the reach of doubt; to attain which the Managers pledge themselves to exercise renewed exertions, and to labour unceasingly.* In this work they call upon the shareholders to aid them, individually and collectively; much has been done by the industrial classes, still more can be done, and requires to be done—strength and victory will result from union and labour.

The year 1859 promised an abundant harvest to the friends of Aston Park. The Canvassing Committee formed themselves into a Fête Committee, and organized the successful colossal fête. This was held on the 20th of July, and realized

a profit of £1,950 0s. 4d., which was distributed in shares by ballot among the purchasers of tickets. This was a fatal mistake. The object proposed was of course to induce people to buy tickets in the hope of winning a share, and this hope doubtless had great influence on the success of the fête. The result was, however, injurious to the permanent interests of the Park. The winners of these prize shares set little value upon them, and offered them for sale at sums of 10s., 5s., 2s. 6d., and even as low as 1s. 6d. each. The consequence was that few persons would take out the guinea shares of the company, and the efforts made to increase the share list by the ordinary and legitimate means almost entirely failed. It had also another bad effect. It introduced into the class of A shareholders men who, having given nothing for their shares, were constantly depreciating their value, lending their tickets, and abusing their privileges to an enormous and disastrous extent. The money success of the fête however prompted the managers to arrange for holding a "Share Fête" in September of the same year. This was almost a failure; for although over £1,200 were expended in its production only £181 13s. profit was realized, and this amount was given away in shares.

But all questions of profit or loss on any other account assumed a very minor importance when the balance-sheet for the year appeared, and contained the astounding information that in the Refreshment Department trading to the extent of £3,224 14s. 4d. had been done, and only £95 13s. 4d. profit had been made. With such a fact as this before them it is no wonder that the annual meeting in March, 1860, was a strong and indignant one; and that the shareholders refused to receive the report, and appointed an Investigation Committee to examine into the whole affairs of the company. The Managers, evidently ignorant of the cause of this shameful result, supported the proposal, and offered every assistance in their power. Seven shareholders were elected for the purpose, viz:—Thomas Wilson, jun., chairman; James Ellis, W. Dugard, Samuel Suter, George Ireland, Charles Gilbert,

and James Freeman, Honorary Secretary. They at once commenced their work, and almost day by day for the period of over four months worked at it assiduously and hopefully. It must have been a gigantic task. It was stated at the meeting, and published in their voluminous report, that they examined every book, every account, and every voucher; invited by advertisement witnesses to tender evidence, and carefully received and digested the same. All they attained, however, was that the thing had been muddled. There was no evidence of dishonesty. It was mismanagement pure and simple, with no one responsible for it. The report of the Investigation Committee gave as the first conclusion of the inquiry this satisfactory statement:—"We find that, with a few exceptions of small amounts, the accounts are substantially correct."

The Report of the Investigation Committee—a pamphlet of thirty-one closely-printed pages, replete with statistics and tables—was first published and then submitted to a noisy meeting of the shareholders in July, 1860. The postponement of the annual meeting for the purpose of allowing the Investigation Committee to pursue their labours and complete their report, prevented any work being done in 1860. And when the report was presented few people cared about it, few read it. I have a statement of its cost and of its sale before me now. The printer's bill was £28 14s. 6d., and the receipts for the sale of reports were £7 11s. 11d. They were sold at threepence each, so anyone can easily reckon the circulation which it attained. It was published a few days before, and in a "notice" rather pompously answered a doubt raised "as to the propriety of the report being sold to non-shareholders as well as shareholders," by saying, "Since the Aston Hall movement is entirely of a public nature, we consider that full information concerning its progress ought to be given to all who are desirous of obtaining it. As every inhabitant of the town either is or ought to be a shareholder of the company, the statements we have to make appeal to the attention of all alike. Those who are shareholders have a

right to read the report; by those who are not the report has a right to be read. We thus claim to comprise the whole of the inhabitants as the circle of our legitimate readers." Unfortunately the whole of the inhabitants did not join in the circle of legitimate readers; and about the only practical result of this committee's many sittings and multifarious labours, was the putting off the elections of the council and managers from March to August. Candidates were named and a poll was demanded by the A shareholders, the popular and by far the most numerous class. The twelve elected were:—

Thomas Bragg
John Hinks
G. C. Haseler
Thomas Lloyd
J. S. Manton
E. Marshall
H. Payton
J. P. Turner
Councillor J. Wadhams
Thomas Wilson, jun.
William Lucy.

Mr. James Ellis was chosen, but on the re-appointment of Mr. O'Neill as secretary, he resigned. The C shareholders elected their twelve, and the trustees theirs, and on the 20th of August, 1860, the new Council took office and commenced their duties. It was too late to do any highly remunerating work that year, but the governing body had some very important duties to discharge. Their first work was to place the undertaking on a secure basis; for the conditions of purchase had not been fulfilled, and the company was at the mercy of the proprietors, who could at any moment give them notice to quit. This is shortly and clearly described in the report dated March, 1861; so I quote the passage:—

The most important matter to which the council had to attend, and one which affected the prosperity and the very existence of the undertaking, was the relation between the company and the proprietors of the Park and Hall. The conditions of the agreement in operation when the council were elected it was found impossible to carry out; and negotiations were at once entered into to obtain a modification of the terms. These negotiations were at length successful; the council paid over to the proprietors the sum of £1,155 for interest which had been long accumulating, and a further amount of £1,000 towards principal. The deeds

of conveyance were then signed, and the estate is now actually in the hands of the company, subject to the mortgage; which, after deducting the £4,200 of shares which the proprietors agree to take, amounts to £22,800, interest at 4 per cent. per annum. The repayment of this mortgage may extend over a period of ten years, if necessary, the sum of £2,000 at least being paid on September 29th in each year, towards principal and interest. The provisions of the mortgage deeds were very carefully considered, and are of such a nature as to fully protect the interests of the company.

The nine managers elected by the Council were Mr. Thomas Lloyd, Mr. W. Lucy, Mr. J. Wadhams, Mr. T. Bragg, Mr. C. W. S. Deakin, Mr. J. S. Manton, Mr. J. P. Turner, Mr. Thomas Wilson, jun., and Mr. W. Webb. These gentlemen set earnestly to work; introduced new methods of management, reduced the expenditure, and made every exertion to set the company on its legs, and to carry out the duties entrusted to them. We learn from the reports given at the annual meeting, and from the speeches of members of the Council, not managers, that the amount of time and labour given by those gentlemen was extraordinary. Success, however, did not reward their labour. The year 1861 was an exception to the general rule. Blondin was secured for the two days' fête, and made his first appearance in Birmingham on June 8, and his second on the 9th. Nearly £2,000 profit was realized; which, with the profits from the refreshments (now being satisfactorily and well worked), enabled the company to pay its £1,080 interest; and £920 on account of the purchase. The next year, 1862, witnessed the same exertions, the same care, the same economy in the management as its predecessor, but the attractions of Blondin were no more what they had been. The first keen edge of excitement was gone, and the fête was a comparative failure. Instead of nearly £2,000 profit, it realized only a little over £200. Still the general working was so good, and the returns from the regular sources were so much increased that the company was able to pay its working expenses and the £1,040 interest. But nothing could be paid on account of the purchase; so that as regards the object of the company, this year may be

considered as barren. The arrangements with the mortgagees had again to be altered; so that the interest was paid regularly, the mortgagees allowed five years to elapse without asking for any money in liquidation of the debt, unless the company had realized sufficient profit by their undertakings. It seemed hopeless work, and yet an energetic government, which had been re-elected in March of that year, worked "and bated not one jot of heart or hope."

In 1863, the affairs of the company reached another crisis. At the Forester's Fête, held on July 20, the Female Blondin (Mrs. Powell), was performing on the high rope, which broke as she was crossing it for the last time, and the poor woman was killed on the spot. In a few days after this terrible accident, the Mayor (Mr. C. Sturge) received the following letter from the Queen :—

Osborne, July 25th, 1863.

Sir,

The Queen has commanded me to express to you the pain with which her Majesty has read the account of a fatal accident which has occurred during a fête at Aston Park, at Birmingham.

Her Majesty cannot refrain from making known through you her personal feelings of horror that one of her subjects, *a female*, should have been sacrificed to the gratification of the demoralising taste unfortunately prevalent for exhibitions attended with the greatest danger to the performers. Were any proof wanting that such exhibitions are demoralising, I am commanded to remark that it would be at once found in the decision arrived at to continue the festivities, the hilarity, and the sports of the occasion after an event so melancholy.

The Queen trusts that you, in common with the rest of the townspeople of Birmingham, will use your influence to prevent in future the degradation to such exhibitions of the Park which was gladly opened by her Majesty and the beloved Prince Consort, in the hope that it would be made serviceable for the healthy exercise and rational recreation of the people.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
C. B. Phipps.

The Mayor of Birmingham.

To this communication the Mayor replied as follows :—

Borough of Birmingham,
Mayor's Office, July 28, 1863.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, written by command of her Majesty the Queen.

In the first place, I beg you will convey to her Majesty my humble assurance that there is not in the kingdom an individual who laments more sincerely than myself, not only the melancholy accident to which you refer, but the depraved taste for a barbarous species of amusement which unhappily has become popular, not only in the Metropolis, but in all parts of her Majesty's home dominions.

It is only a short time since, and during my Mayoralty, that it was proposed to exhibit a similar performance within the borough, but though I was not empowered to interfere, I ventured so far to interpose my authority as to prevent it.

In this unfortunate instance my name appeared in conjunction with those of the Lord-Lieutenant and several Magistrates and Members of the Parliament, as patrons of the fête, which was for a charitable purpose, but I believe not a single gentleman, whose name so appeared, had any idea that a dangerous exhibition would be attempted.

For the future, I have every reason to hope that, notwithstanding Aston Park is beyond the jurisdiction of the authorities of Birmingham, their influence and that of their fellow townsmen, will henceforth limit its use exclusively to the healthy exercise and rational recreation of the people, so that the gracious intentions of her Majesty and her revered Consort may not be frustrated but realised.

In the meantime I trust that exhibitions of so dangerous and demoralizing a character may be interdicted by Parliamentary enactment.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Charles Sturge, Mayor.

Colonel the Hon. Sir Charles B. Phipps, &c., &c.,
Osborne.

The Secretary of State also addressed a letter to the Managers of the Company. He said:—

Whitehall, 29th July, 1863.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by Secretary Sir George Grey to inform you that a memorial, very numerously signed, has been addressed to him on the subject of the death of the unfortunate woman who was killed in consequence of the breaking of a rope, on which she was performing, at a fête recently given in Aston Park; and I am to express Sir George

Grey's hope that after this melancholy occurrence you will not allow a repetition of such dangerous performances in the Park.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
H. WADDINGTON.

The Directors of Aston Park,
Birmingham

To this communication the Managers sent the following reply:—

Birmingham, August 1st, 1863.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ult., informing the Directors of the Aston Park Company that 'Sir George Grey has received a memorial very numerously signed, addressed to him on the subject of the death of the unfortunate woman who was killed in consequence of the breaking of a rope on which she was performing at a fête recently given in Aston Park;' and expressing Sir George Grey's hope 'that, after this melancholy occurrence, the Managers will not allow a repetition of such dangerous performances in the Park.' I am requested by the Managers to say that they concur in the sentiments contained in the memorial referred to. The Managers have endeavoured, as far as possible, to provide healthful recreation and instruction for the people. On the melancholy occasion referred to, the Managers had let the Park for a charitable purpose and omitted to reserve to themselves any right to control the performances.

WILLIAM LUCY,
Chairman.

H. Waddington, Esq.,
Whitehall, London.

It was now manifest that the Hall and Park could not be purchased by the company; and an effort was at once made by several gentlemen, including Mr. George Dixon, now one of the representatives of Birmingham, Mr. Thomas Lloyd, the Rev. Dr. Miller, and Mr. J. S. Wright, to complete the purchase. A sum of £7,000 was subscribed by the following donors:—

	£
Miss Louisa Anne Ryland	1,000
Abraham and George Dixon, Esqrs.	2,000
Thomas Lloyd, Esq.	1,000
George Frederick Muntz, Esq.	1,000
William Middlemore, Esq.	500
Richard Greaves, Esq.	500
Edward Greaves, Esq., M.P.	
Jeffery Bevington Lowe, Esq.	

	£
Archibald and Timothy Kenrick, Esqrs. . . .	500
Sampson Samuel Lloyd, Esq.	200
George Braithwaite Lloyd, Esq.	
Alfred and Douglas Evans, Esqrs.	200
Charles and James Shaw, Esqrs.	100

This sum, together with all that the company had paid towards the purchase, was offered to the Town Council if they would complete the undertaking. After several long and weary discussions, the Council voted £20,000 for that purpose, on February 2, 1864. The company was voluntarily wound up, the purchase was completed on September 12, 1864, and on the 22nd, the Park was opened as a Free Park, by W. Holliday, Esq., Mayor, who gave a banquet in the Great Gallery on the occasion. The last meeting of the company was held in May of the same year, when a testimonial consisting of a handsome gold watch, a copy of Knight's Pictorial Shakspeare in seven volumes, and Robert Bell's Golden Leaves, was presented to the honorary secretary, Mr. J. A. Langford, in recognition of his services. It is worthy of notice that although the names of the donors of the £7,000 are very properly exhibited on a tablet in the entrance hall, no allusion is made to the working-men who gave up their shares, or to the company who had paid £14,000 towards the purchase of the Hall and Park, and who expended a large sum in beautifying the park, and collected at considerable cost, aided by donations, the exhibition which is now one of the chief attractions of the place. The shareholders generously gave all this to the town, and up to this time have received no word of recognition or of thanks for their act. Let us hope that impartial history will reverse this injustice, and render honour to whom honour is due.

Some estimate may be formed of the great use which the parks are to the people of Birmingham from the returns of the number of visitors in 1871. It appears that, during the year, the number at Calthorpe Park was 40,610; at Adderley Park, 15,600; and at Aston Park, 127,370, making a total of 183,580. Of the visitors to Aston Park it was estimated

that 72,575 entered the hall and museum. The Parks Committee reported to the Council that Mr. Charles Holte Bracebridge, had presented the picture of Sir Charles and Sir Lister Holte, the two last baronets of Aston, and it had been placed in the vestibule to the long gallery. Mr. Bracebridge had also expressed his intention to bequeath other pictures to Aston Hall, family portraits connected with the history of the building and its founders.

Although passing beyond the year assigned for the termination of these annals, I cannot resist availing myself of the opportunity of recording the generous gift of another Free Park for the use of the people of Birmingham and the neighbourhood. For this great boon the Town Council is indebted to the thoughtful munificence of Miss Ryland, of Barford Hill, Warwick. The Park is known as Cannon Hill Park, and is sixty-six acres in extent. It is very finely situated, and has been admirably laid out by its donor, with special reference to the purpose for which it is to be for ever reserved. Miss Ryland declined to have the park called by her name, and, in accordance with her wishes, it was opened without any public ceremony. On the 1st of September, 1873, the Mayor, Mr. A. Biggs, attended by some of the members of the Council, came to the park, and declared it to be open for the use of the people. This was all. The fact that it would be open on that day was published in the newspapers, and a very large number of persons were present. To each visitor a card was presented as a memento of the event. It bore the following inscription:—

Cannon Hill Park, opened 1st September, 1873.—Through the bounty of God, I have great pleasure in giving Cannon Hill Park to the Corporation of Birmingham for the use of the people of the town and neighbourhood. I would express my earnest hope that the park may prove to be a source of healthful recreation to the people of Birmingham, and that they will aid in the protection and preservation of what is now their own property.

LOUISA ANNE RYLAND.

Barford Hill, Warwick.

The total value of this splendid gift is estimated at upwards of £30,000.

FREEHOLD LAND AND BUILDING SOCIETIES.

Birmingham has the honour of being the birthplace of these useful and beneficial Societies. As early as 1781 a proposal was published for the formation of Building Societies, and a large number were subsequently established in various parts of the town.* These societies having effected their special object, ceased to exist. The first of the modern Building Societies, and which is still carried on, was formed in 1843, and is known as the Birmingham Building Society, Number 1. Mr. John Morley is the Secretary. The second was founded by Mr. James Taylor, jun., in 1849. The first Freehold Land Society was founded in 1847. At a public meeting held the same year, the founder, Mr. James Taylor, jun., gave the following graphic account of the beginning of this important undertaking. He said:—

I have been requested to state a few facts connected with the origin of the Society. I had for eighteen months conceived the propriety of such an institution, but it was not until the last general election at Birmingham (August, 1847) that we had enthusiasm enough to get it up. Well, it happened that I went to the place where the election was carried on, and there I saw hundreds of hard-working men, standing and looking on, grinning and yawning over the poles which separated them from the voters—they had dirty hands and brown faces. I thought they ought to have votes, and I determined they should have votes if I could help them to obtain them. This was on a Friday. I mentioned it to a friend, and he asked me how this was to be done. We agreed to meet together to consult about it. We did so, and I moved and seconded a resolution, which was passed unanimously, that he should take the chair. I then moved and seconded resolutions to the effect that a Freehold Land Society should be established, which were also passed unanimously. I then said, 'We will advertise these resolutions in the *Journal* of

* See "A Century of Birmingham Life," vol. I., page 201; and a paper on Early Birmingham Building Societies, read by the Author at the Archæological Section of the Birmingham and Midland Institute, and published in the Transactions of the Section for 1871.

to-morrow.' This was about ten o'clock at night. I knew that the *Birmingham Journal* went to press at twelve o'clock. I drew up a letter stating that at a meeting for forming a Freehold Land Society, called by the friends of an extension of the Suffrage, the following resolutions were proposed and unanimously adopted. I took it to the office, and oh ! what was my horror next morning to find that the editor had made my short letter the subject of a long leading article ! It completely spoiled my breakfast. I went to my friend, and I said to him, 'what do you think of this ? Here's a pretty affair !' He turned all colours—red, white, black, blue, and yellow. He said, 'What must be done ?' 'Well,' I said, 'we must go on with it, for there's no getting out of it.' 'That's true,' said he, 'and, besides, you see we have the *Journal* enlisted on our behalf already.' Well, I went on, and on Tuesday five of us assembled. I wrote a prospectus, as it is called ; and I went to Mr. Scholefield and to Alderman Weston. I also went to solicit the interest of Mr. Brooke Smith, and on our way there, the friend who was with me (Mr. Baker) stopped me at the bottom of the stairs, saying, 'Stop, a bit, Jem ; why,' he said, 'I can't help thinking that you and me are destined to do the State some service before we die.' I said, 'That's right, Dan. ; go on.' Well, we went on ; and at last we got the two members for Birmingham ; then we got a Committee ; and its equal, I think, never sat.

In this manner was formed the first Freehold Land Society ; and its few promoters set to work in earnest. In the first report of the Committee for the year ending September 7, 1848, it is stated :—

The primary object of our Society is to confer a Forty Shilling Freehold upon the members, for the purpose of qualifying them to be inserted on the Registration Sheets as County Electors. The practicability of the plan had often been canvassed amongst those who were favourable to extending the franchise to working men ; but it was not until the autumn of last year, after the defeat of the Liberal interest in North Warwick, that a sufficient amount of enthusiasm could be generated in our townsmen to induce them to take such steps as will, at no distant day, completely rescue those County Divisions which are adjacent to Birmingham, from the political exclusiveness which now has possession of them.

The rules of the Society were certified on December 27th, 1847, and a Soirée was held in the Town Hall, on February 1st, 1848, in commemoration of the event.

The results of one year's working were highly satisfactory. The Committee made arrangements for establishing similar

societies in the neighbouring towns, and were able to state in their first report that they had already formed seven societies, with 2,108 members, subscribing for 2,837 shares. The following is the list:—

	Members.	Shares.
Birmingham	991	1442
Dudley	118	137
Stourbridge	110	145
Coventry	294	360
Worcester	103	140
Wolverhampton	412	522
Stafford	80	91
	2,108	2,837

The first Committee consisted of Messrs. W. B. Smith, J. Padmore, J. Forgham, T. B. Beesley, J. Parish, B. Hawkes, J. Marlow, G. Wallington, D. Baker, W. H. M. Blews, T. Gateley, W. W. Ashford, and E. Nicholls. Mr. James Taylor, jun., was the Secretary; and G. F. Muntz, M.P., and W. Scholefield, M.P., Presidents; and the Vice-Presidents were, Messrs. Brooke Smith, George Dawson, and P. H. Muntz.

In the following year, 1849, 231 allotments of land were made; in two years the total number being 426. Of these 195 were in South Staffordshire, and 231 in North Warwickshire. An estate at Small Heath, divided into 400 allotments, had been purchased. A third estate, at Bloomsbury, was taken formal possession of in June, 1849; and, says the report "it being the first in the county, much interest was felt; a good procession was formed and a public meeting held upon the Freehold; and in the evening, another public meeting took place in the Corn Exchange, G. F. Muntz, M.P., in the chair. There were also present W. Scholefield, Esq., M.P., Archibald Prentice, Esq., (who kindly attended as a deputation from the Manchester reformers) Alderman Robert Martineau, Alderman T. Weston, Councillor J. Baldwin, George Dawson, M.A., and many other eminent gentlemen." The *Journal* made the following remarks on the movement at this date:—

Somewhere about eighteen months ago we assisted at the laying of the foundation of this institution, then numerically weak, and pecuniarily feeble. It had within it, however, the germs of a vigorous existence. Under the fostering care and excellent management of Mr. James Taylor, jun., and a few earnest and practical men like himself, it has already not only reached a healthy maturity itself, but given existence to an offspring that promises fair to excel the original. Stimulated by the example, and aided with the assistance of the Birmingham Society, institutions of a similar kind have sprung up all over the country. In Wolverhampton the Society has 700 members; Dudley, 150; Stourbridge, 300; Coventry, 450; Worcester, 80; Stafford, 100; Derby, 700; Newcastle-on-Tyne, 450: Bradford, 140; Cheltenham, 200; Sheffield, 300; Shields, 200; and London about 5,000. In Birmingham, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Stourbridge, and Coventry 1,636 allotments will speedily be made. Altogether there has been called into existence a body of between 10,000 and 11,000 men, who, feeling that 'to be free, themselves must strike the blow,' have become bound together to work out by the best of all modes—that of prudence, economy, and care—their own political enfranchisement. The result of this is not difficult to foresee. All extensions of the Suffrage have pointed to progress, and not one of them, however brought about, has tended any other way. With regard to the Birmingham Society, it now numbers 1,500 members, subscribing for 2,000 shares. It has already given allotments to 215 members in North Staffordshire, on the estates the directors purchased at Handsworth and Perry Barr; and having recently made another purchase at Bloomsbury, in North Warwickshire, they resolved to take advantage of these holiday times, to walk in procession to the land, and place the members in formal possession. This estate is very pleasantly situated, commanding an extensive prospect, contains about thirteen acres, and has been divided into 231 allotments. Each allotment will then contain about 300 square yards, with a frontage of 18 to 20 feet.

At the meeting Mr. Taylor said that, in a few weeks more, they would, in addition to the 231 located on that spot that day, place 450 on the roll of the constituency of North Warwick, the Society having purchased 28 acres of land at Small Heath. They had spent £20,000 in land, and would give votes to 900 men.

The rapid growth of the Society will be seen in the following statement of its receipts for the first five years of its existence:—

	£	s.	d.
The first years receipts were . . .	4,801	12	5
„ second „ „	8,644	8	0½
„ third „ „	11,533	6	10
„ fourth „ „	10,565	1	6½
„ fifth „ „	14,947	15	11
Total in the five years	£50,492	4	9

No useful purpose would be served in tracing the progress of the Freehold Land and Building Societies year by year. In 1865, Mr. G. J. Johnson prepared a paper for Section F of the British Association, entitled "Statistics of the Benefit, Building, and Freehold Land Societies in Birmingham." This paper is a complete and exhaustive record of the Societies at that time. It is now out of print. The author has kindly permitted me to reprint it, for which he will doubtless receive the hearty thanks of the reader:—

The fact which appears from the subjoined Tables, that since the year 1842 an amount of nearly £2,500,000 has been paid, chiefly by the working and lower section of the middle class into Building and Freehold Land Societies in Birmingham, justifies the compilation of a paper illustrating this branch of the economic progress of the town. At the outset I have gratefully to acknowledge the ready and courteous manner in which the secretaries of the various societies answered my enquiries, some of which involved troublesome searches into the books and accounts of societies which had been long since wound up. By their assistance I am able, in the four tables appended to this paper, to present an account of these societies as nearly complete as the circumstances will admit of.

Table 1 is a list of all the enrolled societies in Birmingham from the passing of the Act for the regulation of Building Societies (14th July, 1836) to the present time.

Table 2 gives a list of all such societies as have terminated or been wound up *without loss* to the members.

Table 3 gives a similar list of societies which have ended in *loss* to the members.

Table 4 contains a list of the existing societies, with the statistics of each.

Commencing with table 1, it will be noticed that the first society there named was formed in 1835, before the Benefit Building Societies Act, although subsequently registered under that Act. It was a Building Club of a type not uncommon in Birmingham sixty or seventy years ago.* The objects of such clubs were similar to those of a modern Land

* A large number of the houses in Islington Row, Cheapside, and Woodcock Street were built by this means.

and Building Society, except that instead of buying land it was taken on long building leases by the trustees and sublet to the different members. Such Building Clubs differed from the modern Building Societies enrolled under the Act of 1836 in two important particulars, viz. :— 1.—Building Clubs were merely private partnerships, subject to all the inconveniences of a large partnership ; and 2.—their benefits were confined to intending builders, as there was no adequate machinery for the investing branch of the business of modern societies, which has made them the savings banks of a large number of the working class.

The Society in question was a good specimen of the class. It had twenty-five members, and eight of them obtained houses and the others a money equivalent. The next society, formed some years after, was not a Building Society in the usual sense, but a society for building a public hall, registered under the Act from some supposed necessity or benefit. It was not until the year 1842 that the first proper Benefit Building Society was formed in Birmingham. Between that time and the year 1862, when the last formed Building Society was registered, no less than forty-two Building and Land Societies have been established and enrolled. No year between 1842 and 1862 passed over without the establishment of some new society, and in some years—*e.g.*, in 1846—as many as six such societies were projected.

All the earlier societies, up to the year 1846, were established on what is called the "terminating principle," *i.e.*, the members continue paying until the amount paid and the accumulated profit makes up all the shares to the prescribed amount (generally £120), when the object of the society is accomplished, as regards each member, at one and the same time, and the society is "up." It is obvious that this involved either that all the members should begin paying at the formation of the society, or that any member entering subsequent to the rest should pay such a sum as would be equal to payments and profits of an original member at the time of such subsequent entrance.

This became a serious inconvenience in the later years of a terminating society, and the consequence is that most of the modern societies (twenty-eight out of the thirty-five societies established since 1845) have been founded on the "permanent principle." On this principle the *society* always continues, it is only *membership* of the individuals composing it which terminates. When any particular member's payments, together with his share of profits during his period of membership, amounts to £120, or whatever may be the prescribed amount of the share, he must be paid out if he is an investor ; if he is a borrower he must continue to pay until not only his £120 but also the premium he agreed to pay for the advance of that sum is made up. The advantages of this permanent plan are numerous ; *e.g.*, the members can join at any time without paying any arrears, and the proportion between borrowers and investors is steadier than in terminating societies.

Besides "terminating" and "permanent" societies, it will be noticed that five of the societies in Table 1 are Freehold Land Societies. In a Freehold Land Society, land is bought by the trustees and sold in small allotments to the members, who thereupon obtain an advance from the society as a Building Society in the ordinary way, by which the trustees are reimbursed, and the land alone, or the land and a house upon it as the case may be, is thus gradually redeemed by the member. The first Freehold Land Society in Birmingham was established by Mr. James Taylor, jun., whose name has now for nearly twenty years been identified with similar societies throughout Great Britain.

Referring now to Table 2, we find that out of the societies in Table 1 eight have been terminated successfully, and four have united with existing societies, and two have been voluntarily wound up, in all cases without loss to the members. It is very difficult to get at accounts which have been closed for many years, but the following figures may be relied on as showing the profits made by successful Building Societies. The first Building Society, formed under the Act in June, 1842, terminated in September, 1853, having run eleven years and three months.

	£	s.	d.
In that period each subscribing member had actually paid	75	14	8
And was entitled for interest and share of profits to	44	5	4
Making up his share of	£120	0	0

The next Society, the Birmingham Building Society No. 2, began in January, 1845, and terminated in October, 1856, having run eleven years and nine months.

	£	s.	d.
In that period each investing member had actually paid	78	1	0
And was entitled for interest and share of profits to	41	19	0
Making up his share of	£120	0	0

The payments in each case for an investor being two shillings and sixpence per week per share, and for a borrower double that rate.

In Table 3 will be found such particulars as could be obtained of the unsuccessful Building Societies. Some one or two of the societies mentioned in Table 1, about which no information could be obtained, should, no doubt, be entered in this list; but, making allowance for these, it is gratifying to notice how small a proportion the *un*successful societies bear to the others, both in number and the actual amount of business done.

In the largest unsuccessful society the members received back nineteen shillings in the pound on the amount they had actually paid in, not reckoning interest. In the other cases the loss to those members who continued to be so up to the time of stoppage was total, or nearly so. The cause of failure in all the cases was the same—lending money on insufficient security, second mortgages, and other bad investments. Many other societies suffered heavy loss from the same cause, and for the most part by the same persons whose misconduct led to the stoppage of the societies in Table 3. These failures had one good result; for some years Building Societies had been so uniformly prosperous that the members omitted to exercise a proper vigilance over their administration; but losses by bad investments, and the embezzlement of a large sum of money by a person who held a prominent position in several societies, have made both committees and members more careful. It is fair to notice that the case just alluded to is the only instance of fraud by any official of a Building Society in Birmingham.

To sum up the results of the operations of these societies in Birmingham, it will be seen that adding together

The amount received by the societies which have terminated successfully (Table 2) . . .	77,858
And the amount received by the societies which have failed (Table 2)	13,800
And the amount received by existing societies (Table 3)	2,242,968
Makes a total of money which has passed through these societies of	£2,334,626

not taking into account ten societies of which it has not been possible to obtain returns. Supposing each of these societies to have received an equal amount to the average receipts of the four successful and four unsuccessful societies in Tables 2 and 3, *i.e.*, about £11,200 each, that would give £112,000 more, which, added to the preceding total, makes £2,446,616.

At the present time the total number of members of the existing societies is 11,193.

The amount now due on mortgage is £539,732.

The amount due to investors, £438,043.

To these figures ought to be added a sum of at least £60,000 lent to these societies on deposit notes repayable at short notice. In consequence of Mr. Tidd Pratt having for some time past refused to certify rules containing borrowing powers, these deposits are not so large as they once were, and it is difficult to get at the exact amount. The returns in Table 1 are for that reason incomplete, and there is good reason to believe that if they were complete they would show at least £13,000 more.

Such being the general results of these societies in Birmingham, the next point for consideration is, what are the benefits to the members individually.

As to Investing Members.—In a well-managed society they will receive at least £5 per cent. compound interest, on the amounts paid in. In the Birmingham Societies the shares are generally £120, and the payment for investors five shillings per fortnight per share. These payments, at £5 per cent. compound interest, would make up £120 in fourteen years, supposing there were no deductions for management expenses and no losses. But to the interest paid by borrowing members there has to be added the premium the latter pay on the advance of their shares, and this, in some of the older societies was so considerable as to shorten the time at which the members' shares were made up, from fourteen years to twelve years, or less. In the two terminating societies noticed just now, the actual payments of the members, instead of £90, as they would have been, if the society had run fourteen years, were, in one case, £75 14s. 8d.; and in the other, £78 1s. 0d.

In an existing permanent society which began in 1853, the first members' shares were made up £120 in April, 1865, being about eleven years and a half, in the course of which, each such member had paid £74 3s. 4d. only. Of course, this scale of profits implies a proportionately high rate of premium paid by borrowers. These very high premiums such as £40 a share, are not obtainable, several of the more modern building societies having adopted the scale of a £12 premium, and allowing £5 per cent. compound interest only to investors on this plan, the shares are up in little less than fourteen years. It is also to be noticed that most societies get an additional profit by their deposits, by which they are able to lend to borrowers, and earn premiums faster than they otherwise would, by waiting until the subscription accumulated. The period at which a share in any given society may be "up," may be dated to be from twelve to fourteen years, according as the premiums are larger or smaller, or the losses few or frequent.

As to Borrowing Members.—As soon as a member gets his share advanced to him his subscription is increased in most societies to double an investor's contribution. For instance, if an investing member pays two shillings and sixpence weekly for a £120 share, a borrowing member will pay five shillings. This addition, two shillings and sixpence a week—£6 10s. a year, is all appropriated as interest on the member's £120, which makes the interest more than £5 per cent. On the other side of the account, however, the original two shillings and sixpence per week which the borrower pays in as a partner, and not for redemption, also amounts to £6 10s. by the end of the year, and the borrower gets credit for £5 per cent. interest on this from the end of the first year, and the like interest on £13 the second year, and so on. In some societies,

the subscription instead of being doubled, is increased from two shillings and sixpence to four shillings per week for a borrower, which, of course, is easier to the borrowers as borrowers merely, but not so quickly profitable to them as partners.

The advantages by which a borrowing member is more than compensated for the additional interest he pays, are :—

1.—He can borrow the whole value of the property instead of the two-thirds, which an ordinary mortgagee would advance. If the rent of the property will cover the borrower's subscription the society is safe, as the claim is a constantly decreasing one.

2.—The expenses are much less than an ordinary mortgage. The legal charges are on a fixed scale, and there is no stamp duty, and a simple receipt indorsed re-vests the property in him.

3.—He is entitled as a partner with the investing members to a share of what he pays for premium on his own advance.

Expenses of Management.—The best returns I have been able to get show that these expenses vary from five to one-and-a-half per cent. on the amounts received. These great differences arise from the fact that an almost equally expensive staff is required for a small society as a large one. The Secretaries, Check Stewards, and Committee are generally paid, very moderately indeed it is true, but whatever it is, it gives a very different per centage spread over a large return than a moderate one.

Fresh Legislation Required.—There is one question which has forced itself upon the attention of all engaged in the working of these societies, and that is, whether the time has not arrived for altering their legal status altogether. I have no wish to raise legal questions here, but it is not a legal, but an economical question, whether societies having an income, as many of the larger societies have, from £50,000 to £100,000 a year, ought not to have the advantages of corporate existence as may now be enjoyed by any seven persons who choose, by subscribing a memorandum of Association for one share of £1 each, to form a "Joint Stock Company Limited." No one can read the Act of 1836 without noticing that, from the preamble, declaring "that it was desirable to afford encouragement and protection to societies to assist the members thereof in obtaining a *small* freehold or leasehold property," down to the last clause, the whole scope of the Act is utterly inadequate to the present condition of these societies. One instance will suffice. It is the theory of the Act that a Building Society is a small Friendly Society, the members of which will meet once a week or fortnight. Accordingly, it provides that a general meeting of the members may be called by a notice read at two such meetings. There are, at least, six societies in Birmingham with 1,000 members and upwards—one with more than 3,000. These members pay their subscriptions fortnightly, quarterly, or yearly,

and when they go, or more often send to the office for that purpose, it is no more a meeting than the shareholders going or sending to pay their calls at a bank is a shareholders' meeting. The facts have outgrown the theory on which the Act was constructed. The consequence has been that more than once very improper rules have been made at meetings, called in the Act of Parliament mode, which were necessarily unknown to all the members, except the half-dozen interested in the object on which the meetings were called.

What is wanted is a recognition that these societies are no longer small friendly societies, but are large investment associations, and are therefore entitled to become incorporated Companies.

In the course of the last thirty years the British Legislature has slowly and cautiously tried every modification of the partnership principle as applied to associations, and has finally decided that incorporation is the best solution of the difficulties of the question. It is time the same principle was applied to Building Societies. If they became Companies, the now cumbrous machinery of trustees would be dispensed with. Trustees do not, in fact, in the larger societies exercise any useful control over the Society's affairs, and the changes which necessarily occur embarrass and complicate Building Society titles. Again, if these societies were made into companies there would be adequate machinery for voluntarily winding up. Now, unless every member concurs, there is no resource but the Court of Chancery.

TABLE 1.

List of Benefit Building and Land Societies in Birmingham.

Date of Formation.	Table where further Information is given.	Pemnt. or Terminating.	NAME OF SOCIETY.
1835	2	T.	Wheeler Street
1840	No information.		People's Hall of Science.
1842	2	T.	Birmingham.
1843	2	T.	Borough.
1844	No information.	,,	Midland Counties Loan, Real Property and Accumulating Association.
1845	2	T.	Birmingham No. 2.
1845	2	T.	Birmingham No. 3.
1846	2	T.	Midland Counties No. 2.
1846	No information.	T.	Standard
1846	4	P.	Birmingham No. 4.
1846	2	T.	Birmingham Equitable.
1846	2	P.	Manchester Order of Odd Fellows.
1846	2	T.	Borough No. 2.
1846	4	P.	Birmingham and Midland District and Investment Association (Athenæum).
1847	4	P,	The Freehold *Land* Society (enrolled as Birmingham and Midland Counties' Benefit Building Society).
1847	2	T.	Warwickshire and Staffordshire.
1848	4	P.	The Counties (Land and Building).
1848	4	P.	Victoria (*ditto*).
1848	4	P.	No. 5 Building Society.
1849	No information.	P.	Newhall Hill.
1849	4	P.	Borough No. 3.
1849	4	P.	Freeholders.
1850	4	T.	St. Philip's (became Permanent in 1853).
1850	4	P.	Birmingham Building and Freehold Land.
1850	3	P.	People's.
1850	No information.	P.	Independent Freeholders and Leaseholders (never went on).
1851	2	P.	Birmingham Town and District Permanent
1852	No information.		St. Philip's No. 2 (never went on).
1853	4	P.	Second Freeholders.
1853	4	P.	Birmingham No. 1.
1854	3	P.	Economic.
1854	4	T.	Warwickshire and Staffordshire No. 2.
1854	3	P.	No. 3 Midland Counties.
1855	3	P.	Birmingham Equitable No. 2.
1855	4	P.	Professional and Commercial.
1855	No information.	P.	Birmingham and Midland Counties.
1856	4	P.	Borough No. 1.
1857	4	P.	United Freeholders.
1857	2	P.	Industrial Permanent.
1858	2	P.	Saltley Permanent.
1859	2	P.	Birmingham No. 3.
1860	4	P.	Friendly.
1862	4	T.	Warwickshire and Staffordshire No. 3.
1862	4	P.	Queen's.

TABLE 2.

List of Societies which have Terminated or been Wound-up without Loss.

	NAME OF SOCIETY. T. Terminating. P. Permanent.	Date of Formation.	No. of Shares Subscribed for from the Commencement	Value of Share.	No. of Members who have entered from Commencement	Total Amount of Subscriptions received from Commencement	REMARKS.
				£		£	
T.	Wheeler Street Building Club	1835	25				
T.	Birmingham Building Society	1842	267	120	204	33,278	
T.	Borough Building Society	1843		120			
T.	Birmingham Building Society No. 2.....	1845	286¾	120	227	31,572	
T.	Birmingham Building Society No. 3.....	1845		120			
T.	Midland Counties No. 2.....	1846					Merged in Midland Counties No. 3.
P.	Manchester Order of Odd Fellows	1846	475	120	150	12,000	Wound up in 1849 without loss
P.	Equitable No. 1	1846					
T.	Borough No. 2.....	1846					
T.	Warwickshire and Staffordshire	1847					
P.	Birmingham Town and District Permanent	1851					
P.	Industrial	1857					Merged in "Professional," in June, 1859.
P.	Saltley (Permanent)	1858					Merged in Friendly Building Society.
P.	Birmingham No. 3.....	1859	108	120	73	1,008	Merged in No. 1 Building Society (Permanent).
						£77,858	

TABLE 3.

List of Non-existing Insolvent Societies.

	NAME OF SOCIETY. P. Permanent. T. Terminating.	Date of Formation.	No. of Shares Subscribed for from the Commencement	Value of Shares.	No. of Members who have entered from Commencement	Total Amount of Subscriptions received from Commencement	REMARKS.
				£		£	
P.	People's Benefit Building Society	1850	360	120	190	10,888	Paid 19s. in the £, without interest, in June, 1864.
T.	Economic Building Society	1854	260	120	40	2,000	
P.	No. 3 Midland Counties	1854					A previous Society, "Midland Counties No. 2," was merged in this Society in 1856, and this discontinued business in 1856. Total loss to investors at close of Society.
P.	Birmingham Equitable No. 2 ...	1855	79	120	49	912	Discontinued since December, 1858. Loss not yet ascertained.
						£13,800	

TABLE

Freehold Building

NAME OF SOCIETY. P. Permanent. T. Terminating.		Date of Formation.	No. of Shares subscribed from the commencement.	Value of Shares.	No. of Members who have entered from commencement.
				£	
P.	Birmingham No. 4. ...	1846	1,292	120	665
P.	Athenæum	1846	—	120	—
P.	Freehold Land.....	1847	19,400	30	5,700
P.	Counties	1848	4,404	30	1,236
P.	Victoria..... ..	1848	3,444	120	1,442 Buildg. 1,425 Dept.
P.	Birmingham No. 5 *	1848	2,097	120	1,760
P.	Borough No. 3 †	1849	—	—	—
P.	Freehold Building ...	1849	6,700	120	2,206
T., then P.	St. Philip's	1850	493	120	326
P.	Birm. Building and Freehold Land	1850 (Land) 1859 (Buildg.)	2,000	30 120	1,000
P.	Second Freeholders'	1853	4,870	100	1,397
P.	Birmingham No. 1 ...	1853	—	120	1,780
T.	Warwickshire and Staffordshire No. 2.	1854	438	120	60
P.	Professional and Commercial	1855	1,003	120	178
P.	Borough No. 1	1856	204	120	115
P.	United Freeholders'...	1857	3,190	100	1,140
P.	Friendly Building ...	1860	970	100	730
T.	Warwickshire and Staffordshire No. 3.	1862	701	120	98
P.	Queen's	1862	91,000	10	3,800
					£25,058

Remarks : * Winding up. † Winding up ; no return obtainable.

4.

and Land Societies.

Total Amount of Subscriptions received from commencement.	Land Societies only.		Present number of Shares subscribed for.	Present number of Members.	Amount now due on Mortgage.	Amount due to Investors.	Amount of Deposits.
	Amount expended in Land and advanced on Mortgage.	No. of Allotments.					
£	£				£	£	£
90,428	—	—	273½	145	11,065	8,386	2,403
78,340	—	—	—	—	18,891	—	9,223
207,000	118,000	3,071	2,067	1,371	23,000	20,700	—
76,000	—	170 acres.	3,900	230	16,640	7,760	—
288,487	32,000	60 acres.	—	1,000	‡53,000	40,000	—
161,000	91,000	—	81	63	9,300	8,900	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
229,000	—	—	2,041	1,346	57,000	49,200	—
25,908	—	—	302	144	10,373	7,984	1,718
59,000	50,000	1,355	186½	67	8,100	3,600	3,236
487,000	—	—	1,981	996	37,000	35,800	—
175,965	—	—	2,086	1,050	75,405	64,520	2,120
20,093	—	—	182	13	2,544	2,259	—
45,944	—	—	—	—	63,050	25,493	27,458
5,295	—	—	105	63	5,676	3,829	1,096
120,000	—	—	1,770	839	39,000	37,800	—
32,000	—	—	900	608	20,000	18,000	—
9,508	—	—	621	82	6,688	6,412	—
132,000	—	—	81,000	3,176	83,000	77,400	—
£2,242,968			97,496	11,193	£539,732	£418,043	£47,254

‡ £44,000 Building; £9,000 Land.

The extent of the operations of these societies may be estimated by the fact, that up to September, 1870, the Birmingham Freehold Land Society had purchased thirty-eight estates, and made 3,853 allotments. The allotments are divided as follows:—2,499 in North Warwickshire, 622 in East Staffordshire, and 732 in East Worcestershire. The largest estate contains 200 acres, and the smallest half an acre. In conjunction with Building Societies, under the same management, the Society had also purchased or erected for members about 15,000 houses, and the total amount of subscriptions reached the large sum of £2,105,921. The aggregate reserve funds of these Societies, amount to £22,000, and the total liabilities to £356,791 1s. 5d.

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

I am indebted to Mr. R. F. Martineau, the Honorary Secretary, for the following account of this very useful Society:—

"In the spring of 1838 a terrible amount of distress prevailed among the working classes in Birmingham, and a subscription was opened for their relief, a fund of about £5,000 being raised. The requirement of so large a sum induced some gentlemen to make an effort to prevent the recurrence of such necessity; and a meeting was held at the Public Office, the High Bailiff in the chair, at which it was resolved 'that a Society be formed to be called the Birmingham District Provident Society, and that the object of this society be to assist the industrious in establishing habits of frugality and carefulness.' The then Lord Calthorpe was elected president, and Mr. Thomas Goodman treasurer, an office which he has

kindly continued to fill thenceforward to the present time. The whole town was mapped out into districts, and a committee of seven gentlemen appointed to each. The first report, presented June 28th, 1839, shows that active operations were begun only in two districts, St. Thomas's and Ladywood. The receipts this first year were £282 18s. 11d. Including this sum, up to June 30th, 1873, the deposits received have altogether amounted to £25,151 9s. 3d., a very large proportion of which has been received in sums under 6d. When it is considered how much more good this money has done than the same amount given away could possibly effect, how not only has it ministered to the poor in time of need, but also how the very act of laying it by has encouraged habits of prudence and self-denial, it is difficult to realize the benefits conferred by the society's operations. It is only to be wished that the intentions of the founders could have been carried out, and that every district in the town could be brought under influences so beneficial as those of the ladies whose united efforts have resulted in the collection of the sum named.

It may be as well to describe the mode of the society's operations. Each of the ladies who act as collectors, goes round every week and calls upon the depositors in her district, receiving from them such money as they are able and willing to lay by. She takes a book with her, and enters the amount deposited both into it and into a book which each depositor keeps. She also carries a cheque book, and when a depositor wishes to withdraw the whole or any part of his savings, she adds up in his book the total to his credit, and gives him a cheque for such portion of it as is required. The depositor brings his book and the cheque to the 'Bank' (Tennant Street School), on Tuesday evenings, between 7 and 8 o'clock, and the clerk in attendance writes the sum off in his book, and gives him cash for the amount. At the end of the month, the collector posts her receipts into another book, and sends books and cash to the Hon. Sec., who examines her collecting book, and returns it in time for her next weekly round.

By the agency of this society, many have been induced to save who have never thought of it before. Those who have seen most of the working classes, best know how common thoughtless improvidence is among them, how the pence wasted when they have money would go far towards mitigating the hardships of a time when bad trade or sickness finds them entirely unprovided with any fund to meet emergencies. It is the function of this society to remedy this, and in helping the poor to help themselves, to confer upon them the blessing of a spirit of forethought and self-denial. Incidentally too, much good may be effected by the visitor. The depositors soon find out if she has the faculty of sympathy, and consult her on matters in which her better knowledge and judgment are of the greatest service to them. Thus her weekly call may become a source of pleasure and profit in houses where kindness and sympathy are too rare visitors.

BIRMINGHAM CENTRAL LITERARY ASSOCIATION.

On the first of January, 1873, was published the first number of "The Central Literary Magazine," conducted by the above excellent and successful Association, to be published quarterly, and to be circulated only among its members. As was fitting, the number contained a history of the Society to which the Magazine owes its birth. From this carefully written article we extract the following history of the Association.

Like most, perhaps we may say like all other, things, the 'Central Literary Association' had a very small commencement. Magnitude has but a slight influence upon progress, but the principle of vitality is all important. That which possesses health, and can plead a valid *raison d'être*, will grow great be its beginning never so minute; while that which lacks these qualities will dwindle into nothingness, be its opening as promising and its tending as careful as it may. Hence it is not without some pride in the innate value of our Society, that we record the modest and unostentatious labour of its earlier years. It has given help and pleasure to many outside the ranks of its own members, it has sought help or patronage from none. Self-help and self-sustaining; all that it has gained, it has earned; and in the honest satisfaction of an honourable want, it has become useful and prosperous.

We are indebted to Mr. Thomas Griffiths (who divides with Mr. Henry Allbutt the honour of being the father of the Association) for an account of the actual origin of our Society. The idea of providing a means by which individual judgment might be cultivated, by fair and temperate discussion, was first started in a conversation between these gentlemen and Mr. J. D. Davies, (now in Australia); and the first friends of the Association are still numbered amongst its staunchest and most honoured supporters. This conversation took place early in November, 1856, and at a meeting, held at the offices of the Freehold Land Society, on the 7th of the same month, Messrs. James Taylor and Samuel Edwards being present, in addition to the three gentlemen already named, the Association was called into being, by the first resolution: 'That a Central Association for literary purposes be now formed.' A sub-committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Griffiths, Allbutt, Davies, Edwards and Pickering, (all, with the exception of Mr. Davies, still members); and at two subsequent meetings the first code of Laws was submitted and approved.

The first meeting of the Association for actual work took place on November 28th, 1856, and the rule being then, that the meetings should be weekly, the fourth Friday in every month being devoted to Readings; the evening was occupied, by a selection from the 'Merchant of Venice,' by Mr. R. Pardoe, and a speech by Macaulay, on the Maynooth question, read by Mr. Allbutt.

The first debate was held on the 5th of December following, and was on the question of the interference of England in the affairs of other nations. The Association possessed no President during its first session, and appears to have numbered under twenty members. Its existence was at this time, to use the words of one of its founders, 'a struggle,' and involved a great amount of labour on the part of a few persons, who attached themselves warmly to the Association.

The first Annual Meeting was held on November 13th, 1857, at the Clarendon Hotel. No record of this meeting is extant; but from succeeding minutes it appears that Mr. James Taylor was then elected first President of the Association. The records of attendance prove also that the numerical strength of the Society must have greatly increased. That its condition was, however, still one of difficulty, may be judged from the following amusing extract from the minutes, dated November 27th, 1857. 'Then no other member offering anything for the evening's amusement, the Secretary read extracts from Volney's Ruins of Empires, which were not received with the satisfaction the subject merited.' The latter expression is a somewhat dubious one, except the members might have been supposed to have derived a prophetic satisfaction from the assurance that their Association would survive the Ruin of many Empires, then flourishing and apparently stable.

It would be impossible in the space at our disposal, to attempt anything like a detailed account of the doings of the Society during the sixteen years of its present duration; and indeed while the minutes of the meetings have been kept with great care and regularity, the loss of the annual reports for earlier years, has rendered the statistics of its growth, in great measure, a matter of conjecture. It is proposed therefore simply to chronicle, as an aid to many pleasant memories on the part of the older members, the chief landmarks in the history of the Association.

The practice of holding the meetings weekly was abandoned after the first session, and from this period, also, it was so far from being a recognised rule to devote a certain number of evenings to readings, that the course was evidently only resorted to in cases when it proved difficult or impossible to arrange for a debate.

The second annual meeting was held at Dee's Royal Hotel, on September 3rd, 1858, Mr. H. Allbutt being appointed the first Vice-President. The attendance is characterised as "good, though by no means so large as was expected."

The first semi-public meeting appears to have been held on December 3rd, in the ensuing session, the subject for discussion being, somewhat singularly, the same as that debated on the first evening of the Association's existence. The minutes recorded the presence of a considerable number of ladies and friends. At the following meeting it was moved —"That any proposed member shall, on the evening of his introduction, discourse on the subject under consideration for the space of fifteen minutes." [This proposition failed to meet with a seconder, and would, indeed, had it passed into law, have produced effects of an unlooked for character in succeeding sessions, when a dozen or more of new members had been admitted upon the same evening.

At the third annual meeting which was held at the Hen and Chickens Hotel, thirty-five were present, and thirteen new members were added. The place of meeting, which had hitherto been at the offices of the Freehold Land Society, by permission, was now changed to the Athenæum Rooms; but by no means conducive to comfort, it was decided on the following March, to remove to the room in the Hen and Chickens Hotel, since, with the interval of one session, occupied by the Association. It may be interesting to note here, that our Sister Association, the Birmingham and Edgbaston Debating Society (with whom we have long amicably divided well-nigh the whole of the particular class of work we undertake, that is done in the town) was formerly located in the same building.

The first lecture delivered under the auspices of our Association was given in the Athenæum Rooms, by Mr. R. Loveridge, the subject being —"Are the Planets Inhabited." The attendance is not specified. At this time a fear seems to have been entertained that the literary character of the Association was not receiving due attention, and efforts were made to meet the difficulty by the alternation of lectures with debates. Accordingly, in the course of the session, Mr. Frederick Gavin lectured on "Household Poetry," and Mr. Alfred Browett on "Ireland and the Irish." Experience has proved that the Association must depend upon debate, as the principal means of maintaining the interest of members; but several plans have from time to time been devised, with the view of affording encouragement to work of a more purely literary character. The establishment of the Magazine has been promoted with the same object, and this project undoubtedly affords the fairest prospect of success, now that the Association has attained a magnitude which renders such an undertaking feasible.

The fourth annual meeting was attended by fifty members and friends, and the first extract notice by the public press inserted at the foot of the minutes in the form of a cutting from the "Daily Post," of September 10th, 1860. The session of 1860-61 is memorable for the First Annual Conversazione, instituted as a friendly re-union of the members, and as a means of promoting that social intercourse which is one of the most pleasing results of the Society. The Conversazione was held at the Temperance Hall, on February 1st, 1861, and the entertainment provided was purely of a literary, scientific, and musical character. About 180 persons were present, and the experiment was very satisfactory in all respects, except that of pecuniary profit; the net result being a loss of £7 10s. 6d., which was made good by the Committee.

Up to, and long after, this time, the minutes contain frequent evidences of the exceeding difficulty of inducing a sufficient number of members to take part in the debates. Those who have joined during the late years of the Association, when the problem has been rather to find time

sufficient for intending speakers, and when debates upon interesting subjects have been more than once adjourned, can little imagine the difficulties through which the Society has struggled, or appreciate the debt of gratitude owing to a few old members, without whose persistent help its present prosperity would have been unattainable. Notices of postponement on account of insufficient attendance are by no means unfrequent; it is recorded of one meeting that the speeches were all of a "neutral character," and the incomprehensible result of another is that while three members followed the opener in the negative, no one whatever could be found to second the affirmative; yet the voting proved—affirmative, 16; negative, 1.

The minutes of the sixth annual meeting are of an encouraging character. Fifteen new members were nominated, and the treasurer reported "a gratifying balance in hand." The full number of officers was shortly afterwards made up, by the election of the first auditor, Mr. H. Hatch. The first debate of this session appears to have been very successful, and was adjourned; and the record of attendance generally shows a considerable increase. The Conversazione was held at Nock's Hotel, dancing forming the latter portion of the evening's entertainment. A long account is inserted from the "Daily Post," of December 18th, 1862. A summer excursion was held in May, 1863—Warwick and Kenilworth being the places visited.

The first printed list of members was issued at the commencement of the succeeding session. The Conversazione was omitted this year, as all previous meetings of this character had resulted in a loss of greater or less magnitude; the question of their desirability was the subject of anxious and prolonged discussion by the Committee. An attempt was made during the session to improve the attendance of members by the change of the night of meeting, from Friday to Wednesday; but the alteration was decided upon too late to be carried into effect until the session of 1864-5. The first public dinner of the Association was held on the 25th April, 1864, in commemoration of the tercentenary anniversary of the birth of Shakespeare, and was largely attended.

Shortly after the opening of the next session, it was found that the alteration of the night of meeting necessitated also a change of rooms; and from October 18th, 1864, the debates were held at the Royal Hotel.

The Conversazione was held at the same place, on the 20th December, Miss Glyn being engaged to read one of Shakespeare's Plays; and the latter portion of the evening being devoted to dancing. The minutes of a public debate upon the Civil War in America, held upon the 13th December, show a large advance upon the success of all previous similar meetings, forty members and about ninety friends having been present. A lecture upon the "Post Office," delivered by Mr. Samuel Edwards, on January 24th, 1865, was also very largely attended. It was proposed

that there should be a summer excursion of the members and friends to Oxford, in July, 1865, but the responses to the invitation, issued by the committee, did not prove sufficiently large to warrant the undertaking.

The Conversazione held in the following session is noteworthy, as being the last at which an endeavour was made to introduce a literary element; brief papers being read in the earlier portion of the evening, by the President and Vice-President. It has since been found more convenient, and more conducive to success, to continue these meetings simply as social re-unions of the members and of their friends.

The change of the evening for holding the ordinary meetings of the Association having been by no means productive of good result, and the accommodation being also the subject of complaint, the commencement of the session of 1866-67, was marked by a return to the old order of things, and the meetings have thenceforward uniformly been held at the Hen and Chickens' Hotel, and on Friday evenings. From this time, the history of the Association forms a chronicle of almost unchequered prosperity, and will, partly from this reason, and partly on account of its being more freshly in the recollection of the members, present fewer salient points for remark. The minute book shews a steady and sustained increase in the attendance, the truest criterion of the well-being of any society, whilst the financial position of the Association rapidly improved. Various circumstances having continued to render the appointment of an experienced Secretary of paramount importance at this time, Mr. Frank Schmadhorst kindly undertook the office (which is by no means a sinecure), for the second time, during this session.

The succeeding session was an eminently successful one, but presents nothing requiring special notice here, except the increase in the number of the Committee, caused by a resolution, which was unanimously passed on the 18th October, 1867, providing that the retiring President and Vice-President should be ex-officio members thereof. The retiring Secretary has since been added to the number of ex-officio Committee-men.

In recognition of the long-continued and valuable service rendered to the Association by Mr. Thomas Griffiths, that gentleman was, at the annual meeting which opened the session of 1868-69, a second time elected to the Presidency. During this session two interesting additions to the records of the Association were made, by the provision of a Scrap Book, for the insertion of all printed papers referring to the Society; and of an Album (kindly presented by Mr. Walter Mountfort), intended to contain the portraits and autographs of its Officers.

The first debate of the succeeding session was a public one, on the question of the National system of Education, and the attendance was so large, and the interest manifested in the subject so sustained, that the

debate was twice adjourned. The annual Conversazione was held on the 19th January, 1870, at the Exchange Rooms. On the 28th of the same month, a Lecture was delivered, by Mr. Samuel Edwards, on "The English Language," and was largely attended. A public debate, upon the "Eternal duration of Punishment," excited considerable interest, and concluded the session.

The financial position of the Association now began to share in its marked and general improvement; and so far from the current expenses being but barely met by the income, as had formerly been the case, a considerable balance remained in the Treasurer's hands. The Committee, therefore, invited the members to a dinner, at the Sutton Hotel, on September 10th, 1870. The continued prosperity of the Association has permitted this meeting to be repeated annually up to the present time; and the opportunities thus afforded for social intercourse have not only been greatly appreciated by the members, but have, it is hoped, been the means of increasing and strengthening those ties of kindly fellowship, which are all important in a society constituted as is ours.

It will, perhaps, scarcely be necessary, to enter into any details of the last, and of the present sessions, which are, indeed, too recent to have become matter of history. One point, however, cannot be passed in silence. The very favourable state of the funds of the Association, (largely due to the successful management of the annual Conversazione) enabled the Committee, in the session of 1870-71, to offer to the Council of the Midland Institute two prizes of five guineas each, to be competed for by the students of the English Literature and of the English History Classes. This decision was unanimously sanctioned by the members, at the fifteenth annual meeting, held on the 6th October, 1871; and it is earnestly hoped that the success of the Association will be such as to permit the long continuance of so appropriate a bestowal of a portion of its surplus income. It is gratifying to be able to record that the examiners for the prizes already awarded, speak in very high terms of the papers submitted to them; and it may reasonably be expected that valid results will follow the encouragement of studies of paramount importance; but always, too apt, in great commercial centres, to suffer from neglect.

To this record we append a complete list of the Presidents of the Association, with their years of office:—

Mr. James Taylor	1857-58
Mr. J. C. Wynn	1858-59
Mr. H. Allbutt	1859-60
Mr. T. Griffiths	1860-61
Dr. Warden	1861-62
Mr. S. Edwards	1862-63

Mr. G. Zair	1863-64
Mr. F. Schnadhorst	1864-65
Mr. H. S. Pearson	1865-66
Mr. C. Lean	1866-67
Mr. J. Long	1867-68
Mr. T. Griffiths	1868-69
Mr. A. Freeth	1869-70
Mr. R. Pardoe	1870-71
Mr. T. H. Smith	1871-72
Mr. T. B. Thompson	1873-74
Mr. J. E. Hartley	1874-75

BIRMINGHAM TOWN MISSION.

This admirable and useful Society was founded in 1838, and has, therefore, existed thirty-six years. It would be impossible to exaggerate the amount of good effected by its operations during that long period of time. The objects of this Mission will be gathered from its constitution, which has been faithfully carried out; especially since the appointment of the Rev. Micaiah Hill as Secretary in 1856. Owing to his judicious management and indefatigable labour, the success of the Mission is mainly to be attributed. The following is the constitution of the Society:

1.—The name, "The Birmingham Town Mission."

2.—The object of this Institution is to extend the knowledge of the Gospel among the inhabitants of Birmingham and its vicinity (especially the poor), without any reference to denominational distinctions, or the peculiarities of church government.

3.—To effect this object, Missionaries of approved character and qualifications, who shall give themselves entirely to the work, shall be employed and paid by the Institution. Their duty shall be to visit from house to house, in the respective districts that shall be assigned to them;

read the Scriptures, engage in religious conversation, and urge those who are living in neglect of religion to observe the Sabbath, and to attend public worship. They shall also see that all persons possess the Scriptures; shall distribute approved religious tracts, and aid in obtaining scriptural education for the children of the poor. By the approval of the Committee they shall hold meetings for reading and expounding the Scriptures and prayer, and shall adopt such other means as the Committee may think necessary for the accomplishment of the object of the Mission.

4.—An equal number of Clergymen and Dissenting Ministers shall be invited by the Committee to act as examiners of the persons to be engaged as Missionaries. No Missionary to be qualified to act as an agent of the Society until he has been examined and approved by two of each body.

5.—As the object of the Mission is to extend the knowledge of the Gospel, it is a fundamental law that the following doctrines be prominently taught by the Agents and publications of the Mission. They are given, "not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the HOLY GHOST teacheth." * "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." † "In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with GOD, and the WORD was GOD. And the WORD was made flesh, and dwelt among us." ‡ "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." § "The blood of JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S SON, cleanseth from all sin." ‖ "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our LORD JESUS CHRIST." ¶ "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." ** "Without holiness no man shall see the Lord." †† "Ye are sanctified—by the SPIRIT of our GOD." ‡‡

6.—The general business of the Birmingham Town Mission shall be conducted by a Committee, consisting, as far as practicable, of an equal number of members of the Established Church and Dissenters, being subscribers of at least £1 1s. per annum, or donors of £10 and upwards, together with the Treasurer, Secretary, and Auditors, who shall be members of the Committee *ex-Officio*.

7.—Persons subscribing annually, every donor of £10, an executor on the payment of a legacy of £50 and upwards, and clergymen of the Established Church and Dissenting Ministers, as representatives of their congregation, who subscribe or collect for the Mission the sum of £5 annually, shall be members of the Institution.

8.—A General Meeting shall be held annually, to appoint the office-bearers, receive a report of the proceedings of the Mission, and of the state of the Funds. All matters proposed shall be determined by the majority of the members present. The meeting shall be opened and

* 1 Cor. ii. 13.—† Rom. iii. 23.—‡ John i. 1, 14.—§ John iii. 3.
‖ 1 John i. 7.—¶ Rom. v. 1.—** Acts iv. 12.—†† Heb. xii. 14.—‡‡ 1 Cor. vi. 11

concluded by prayer, and the president for the day shall sign the minutes of the proceedings. In connection with the Annual Meeting, one sermon, or more, shall be preached, of which due notice shall be given. Special General Meetings may at any time be called by the Committee.

9.—The funds of the Mission, arising from donations, legacies, subscriptions, collections, &c., shall be expended, under the direction of the Committee, upon the salaries of the Missionaries, the purchase of tracts, and in meeting all necessary charges in conducting the business of the Mission.

10.—That no alteration be made in this constitution, except at an Annual Meeting, or General Meeting specially convened by the Committee, upon a requisition stating the nature of the alteration, signed by fifty of the members, and to be held within twenty-one days of the receipt of such requisition.

In 1858, a Conference on Town and City Missions was held in Birmingham, on the 16th, 17th and 18th of November, at which some very important and interesting papers were read and discussed. The address of welcome was delivered by the Rev. J. C. Miller, D.D.; and during the sittings of the Conference, discussions took place on 1—Mission Journals and Schedules; 2—Size of Districts; 3—Cottage Meetings; 4—Superintendence of Missionaries; 5—The means of obtaining the zeal and piety of our Agents; 6—The means of gaining access to the male population of our large towns; 7—The connection of Missions with Popular Education; 8—Female Missionaries. The following papers were also read:—The importance of City and Town Missions, preserving a strictly Catholic Character, by the Rev. J. Gurwood, M.A., one of the Secretaries of the London City Missions; the means of gaining access to the male population of our large towns, by Thomas Geldart, Secretary of the Manchester City Mission; the connection of Missions with Popular Education, by E. R. Le Mare, Treasurer of the Manchester Auxiliary to the Pastoral Aid Society; and Town Missions and Mission Churches, by the Rev. George Scott, Secretary to the Glasgow City Mission. Other subjects affecting the management and conduct of such Societies, were brought before the Conference.

On the 18th, the Public Closing Meeting was held in the Town Hall, under the presidency of the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M.P., in which the Rev. J. Gurwood, Mr. Robert C. L. Bevan, the Rev. D. Miller, Mr. T. H. Hodgson, the Rev. A. Miller, and Mr. John Unett took part. Much good was effected by this Conference and its meetings.

The annual report presented at the public meeting, held on May 4, 1865, contains much valuable information on the extent and nature of the work done by the Mission, which I quote. The report says:—

Taking Stephenson Place as a central point, and a radius of 3½ miles, you have a circle 21 miles, which equals the boundaries of the Borough of Birmingham. If its streets and lanes and alleys were placed end to end, they would form a continuous line of Buildings 178 miles long. Taking the returns of five years ending 1863, it appears that 2 and 2-5ths of a mile is the rate at which the streets extend every year. To form some idea of these figures you must imagine a street of shops, warehouses, manufactories, public buildings (religious and secular), and 62,800 inhabited houses, commencing at Sheffield, passing through Birmingham, and terminating at Bristol, and then you will realise the extent of the town you inhabit. Police returns for the year ending September, 1864, show that in the month of September last there were at large 159 known thieves or depredators, 50 abandoned females, 159 suspected persons, 162 vagrants and tramps, or a total of 530 loose characters all under the age of sixteen. The number of the same classes from sixteen years and upwards was 2,532. If to these be added 128 receivers of stolen goods, you have 3,190 persons of the criminal or worthless class. It appears also that during the year, 513 persons of previously good character, and 5,962 whose former character was unknown, were proceeded against by the police. Assuming that these two classes do not include the known criminal classes at large in September, it will follow that there exist in the town more than 9,665 men, women and youths of lost character. The most painful feature of the above returns is that 513 persons of previously good character were proceeded against in one year. This gives a weekly average of more than nine persons, a sad evidence of the temptations which beset the inhabitants of great towns and cities; for what must be the number of those who, perhaps equally immoral, yet avoid that point of criminality which compels magisterial interference? Within the borough there were 193 public houses and 129 beer shops, which are the resort of thieves and prostitutes; 9 coffee houses and 18 suspected houses, harbouring the same classes; 183 houses of ill-fame, 128 houses for the receipt of stolen

goods, and 246 lodging houses of bad character. These give a total of 906 houses which are the abode or the resort of criminals and people without visible means of subsistence.

On competent authority 5½ yards may be regarded as the average street frontage of private houses, and 11 yards of public houses, which, situated at the corner formed by two intersecting streets, have in many cases two street frontages. Taking this as the basis of calculation, and imagining the above-mentioned 906 houses placed side by side, and in two parallel rows to form a street, you will have for the first three-quarters of a mile on both sides of you nothing but public houses and beer shops of a bad character, for the next quarter of a mile nothing but houses of ill-fame, and the last $\frac{5}{8}$ths of a mile your walk would be between low coffee houses, lodging houses, and suspected houses. Think of a walk from Joseph Sturge's monument at the beginning of Hagley Road to that of Sir Robert Peel, at the top of New Street, between two rows of public houses and beer shops resorted to by the criminal characters; and then continue your walk to the end of New Street, between houses of ill-fame: and then along High Street, through Bull Street, to the top of Snow Hill, between nothing but houses kept by the receivers of stolen goods, or the resort of tramps, vagrants, and suspected characters, and you will realise the extent of such depravity as comes under the cognizance of the borough police.

On the authority of the Superintendent of police, it appeared a few years ago that some 1,685 shops were open for Sunday traffic. To those who believe in the Divine origin and sacredness of the Lord's day, these figures are full of painful suggestions. Those who look upon the Sunday as a day of rest only, however instituted and sanctioned, cannot reflect with satisfaction that some 3,000 or 4,000 shopkeepers and their assistants have to labour seven days in the week for the real or supposed necessities of some 30,000 or 40,000 persons, who turn a part at least of the day of rest into a day of buying and selling. This, however, does not fully disclose the extent to which the Sabbath is desecrated in your town. To the 2½ miles of Sunday trading shops must be added a street, 3 miles in length, which would be formed by placing side by side, in two parallel rows, the 1,442 houses of the more respectable order, which are licensed to vend intoxicating beverages on the Sunday. Eleven years ago the gin palaces in Manchester were watched during ten consecutive Sundays, and the result of these observations was an average of 149 visitors to each in the course of the day. If we may assume that about a third of this number visit the public houses and beer shops in Birmingham, it will follow that 72,000 visits are paid to them in the course of the Sunday. If we assume that the evening is the time when the publican is the busiest, and that more than half the number of visits are paid between six and nine o'clock in the evening, it will follow that

some 40,000 visits are paid to such places in the evening of the Lord's day. It would occupy too much time to give the details in which it may be safely estimated that about 39,766 persons attend Divine Service in the evening of the Lord's day, so that at least as many squander their time, their means, and their health in public houses and beer shops, as attend places of worship. The population of the Borough of Birmingham in 1851 was 232,841, and 295,955 in 1861, giving an increase of 63,114 in the decade. At this rate the population increases annually at an average rate of 6,311, and on this basis the population at the close of the year 1864 may be assumed to be 314,888, of which, according to Horace Mann's estimate, 58 per cent., or in round numbers 60 out of every 100 may if disposed, attend Divine Service at one time. Therefore, about 188,928 might attend places of worship at one of the usual seasons of prayer. But the fact is that the numbers of seats in the Churches of all denominations is considerably less than half the number of this available population. Now if every seat of every place were occupied, there would still be found some 100,000 who could not attend. The attendance in 1851 at the three services, including Sunday School children, was 83,985. These figures, however, show the attendance, but the number of attendants was only 58,169.

It is a lamentable fact that population has grown more rapidly than Church and Chapel extension, so that the disparity between the numbers that could attend the same service if disposed and the accommodation is greater now than in the year of the religious census. If, then, we take the disparity of that year as representing facts as they are, we shall have but 78,709 as the number of the Church and Chapel-going population out of 188,000 who might attend the same service in the morning, afternoon, and evening, or out of 220,416 who might be present at one or other of the three services. On this too favourable view you arrive at the conviction that the absentees number 141,709, that is, the non-worshipping to the worshipping population is as 2 is to 1. To sum up the results of the above calculations you may imagine a walk from the village of Harborne, past the Town Hall of Birmingham, to the borders of Erdington, through a street of poverty, Sabbath desecration, immorality and crime $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles in length, of which the first $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles consists of 1,685 Sunday trading shops ; the next 3 miles of 1,442 houses licensed to vend intoxicating liquors on the Sabbath ; the next $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of public-houses of the lowest description ; the next $\frac{5}{8}$ of a mile inhabited by the receivers of stolen goods, tramps, and vagrants, and the last $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile with houses of ill-fame. Conceive, again, of streets branching out of this main street on the right hand and on the left, inhabited by more than 140,000 persons who, however moral and respectable in other respects, are habitual absentees from the house of prayer ; for whom, indeed, there is no religious accommodation—not a single Church or

Chapel to which, if disposed, they might attend. Such a statement appearing in the periodicals of our Foreign Missionary Societies would be sufficiently startling; but how painful and humiliating the thought that such a population actually exists in the heart of the Midland Counties of England!

Among the efforts made by your agents to reclaim these classes, the Committee direct your attention first to

THE MISSION ROOM IN OLD CROSS STREET,

in connection with which two missionaries and two Bible women have conducted nine Meetings for the exposition of the Scriptures, and adult classes for reading, every week, or 468 meetings and classes during the year. The attendance on Sabbath mornings varies from 40 to 60, and in the evening from 200 to 300; on Tuesday evening about 70 attend, and on Saturday evening from 12 to 20. The attendance at the mothers' meeting on Wednesday afternoon has risen at times to 40. It consists chiefly of street hawkers, who suspend their calling on purpose to be present at the meeting. Some of them subscribe half-pence for mutual relief in sickness, which amounted during the year to £1 4s. 11½d. In connection with this room nine cottage meetings are held at the homes of the people. In the beginning of the year, at the expense of Mr. Wilson Sturge, Mr. Whitwell exhibited his illuminated Scripture views. As many were unable to gain admission the lecture was repeated at the Temperance Hall, at the expense of Mr. W. R. Lloyd, when about a thousand persons, admitted by free tickets, were present. Numbers who could not be induced to attend any exclusively religious service eagerly listened to these lectures, and some of them have since attended the usual means of grace. The sixth annual meeting of Chimney Sweepers was held on the 2nd of May, 1864, when about 250 sweeps and their wives were provided with tea. One of them, since dead, was too sick to walk, and was conveyed in a cab. There is reason to believe that these annual meetings have improved the character of some of them, as they have become possessors of pony or donkey carts in which they now convey their soot, and others instead of idling their time in summer when their business is slack betake themselves to street hawking. Last Christmas 350 poor persons were provided with tea, and a copy of either the *Band of Hope* or *British Workman* Almanack. After tea Mr. Gausby gave them an interesting lecture on "God's care for small creatures," illustrated by beautiful coloured diagrams. In the same Mission Room a service for

CAB MEN

is held every Sabbath afternoon, which is attended by but few of the drivers. Reliance is placed chiefly on visits paid to the cab stands and the homes of the men. During the year the Missionary to cab men has spent 986 hours in visitation, 666 ordinary visits have been paid, and

248 to the men and their families during sickness. Copies of the *British Workman*, supplied by two friends, are distributed every month, but as there are between 300 and 400 licensed drivers 200 additional copies would be of essential service. The publication is highly esteemed, and works a silent influence when the men are inaccessible to personal influence.

NEW JOHN STREET MISSION ROOM.

The three Missionaries who work in districts adjoining this room have spent 3,647 hours in domiciliary visitation, 540 in devotional and expository services, 766 in Bible and adult classes for instruction in reading and writing and arithmetic, and 826 in other Missionary work. About 10,158 visits have been made during the year, of which 604 were to sick, and 54 to infirm persons. Of the 21 deaths 11 were unattended, except by your agents, and nine are regarded as hopeful cases. The aggregate attendance at the 295 meetings held during the year is about 10,066 ; at the 242 Bible classes about 1,537 ; and at the adult classes about 1,482. In addition to those who still attend the room, 34 have been induced to go, and 10 have become constant attendants at places of public worship, and 9 have become communicants of different churches.

BIBLE WOMEN.

Your female agents have extensive districts assigned to them. One of the four is placed under the superintendence of the Rev. J. B. Gabriel, and another under the superintendence of the Rev. J. T. Feaston. The district of the former is principally in the parish of All Saints, and of the latter in the Lozells.

One of the methods by which the Bible Women gain access, is the sale of the Scriptures and other religious and educational works. To induce the desire to possess a Bible where the desire did not before exist, and by calling for periodical instalments as low as half-pence, to give the poor the power to purchase what else would be beyond their means, is a labour of faith and love which can scarcely be over-estimated. In this view it is gratifying to learn that the system works efficiently, and that the sales continue to be considerable. During the last year the four Bible Women have sold :—

Number of Books sold.

Bibles . . .	168	Gospels . . .	19
Testaments . .	285	Prayer Books .	98
Psalms. . .	71	Hymn Books . .	8

Miscellaneous Publications 271.

Two of the Bible Women, accompanied by a Missionary who has occupied part of his time in open air addresses, have sold at a stall during tke fair week 921 Bibles and Testaments, 273 Prayer Books, and 227 miscellaneous publications.

The above added to the sales of the four previous years gives a total of :—

Copies of the Scriptures	4,772
Prayer Books	1,146
Hymn Books	221
Miscellaneous publications	1,317
Grand total of all kinds in four years	7,456

THE NOEL ROAD REFUGE

Has completed its seventh year, and may now be regarded as one of the established institutions of the town. Slowly but steadily it has multiplied its friends, and now has a most efficient Ladies' Committee, whose time is cheerfully devoted to the superintendence of all domestic arrangements, and through whose indefatigable efforts the large debt has been liquidated, the deficiency in the year's expenditure covered by special donations, and a fund provided to meet any emergency that may arise in future.

On the 1st of April, 1864, there were twelve inmates, and during the year there have been forty-seven admissions and five re-admissions ; of the sixty-four cases, ten continue inmates, leaving fifty-four that have passed through the Refuge.

Of these 54 cases, five left at their own request, of whom *one* has relapsed ; and 6 absconded, of whom *one* applied for re-admission ; 15 were restored to their friends, of whom *three* have relapsed ; 28 were placed in service, of whom *five* have relapsed and *five* are either unsteady or are lost to sight. This analysis, therefore, presents 24 as either doubtful or bad, and 30 as hopeful cases. A review of the seven years shows that 370 young women of abandoned character have been admitted into the Refuge. Of this number, 220 have been placed in service—a fact revealing the perseverance and efficiency of the resident missionary and matron, and the number of ladies who have been willing to lend a helping hand to a class as sinful as they are unfortunate ; 79 have been restored to their friends—a fact, the blessedness of which they only can realize who have mourned over the fall of a sister or a daughter ; seven were transferred to other institutions, three married out of the house, fifty-one left or absconded, fifteen have died, and ten are now under probation. While deploring the partial reformation or total relapse of 51 cases, your committee feel that they have, after all, no cause for discouragement. They have reason for devout thankfulness that so many have stood the test of years. That sixty are now married women, and for the most part happy in lawful wedlock, and that nine are successful settlers in America, Australia, and New Zealand, are results which read in the light of either time or eternity will amply compensate those who have given of their

time, their means, or their energy to convert a sinner from the error of her ways, to save a soul from death, and to hide a multitude of sins.

Considering that your Missionaries and Bible Women do not labour among the educated and refined, but amongst the most ignorant and rude ; that their work is not the comparatively easy one of preserving the innocent and training the religiously-disposed, but the more difficult task of restoring the contaminated, the irreligious and profane, the amount of success with which the great Head of the Church has blessed the society's operations is a ground for continued sympathy and co-operation. With all the increased activity of the Christian community in Church and Chapel extension, in the multiplication of congregational schools, of congregational missionaries, scripture readers, and Bible women, the existence of a society, catholic in its constitution, unsectarian in its operations, simple and evangelical in its aim, striving to supplement all other philanthropic and Christian institutions, and jealous of none, has peculiar claims on the public at large. Death has been so busy among many of the contributors that this Report might well appear draped in mourning. But for legacies, the year's expenditure would have exceeded the income, and unless the numerous vacancies caused by death and removals are filled up by fresh and enlarged subscriptions, the Society will be severely embarrassed in its operations.

In the beginning of the year 1870, the Committee issued the following appeal to the Clergy and Laity of all Christian Denominations, which gives an authoritative account of the condition of the Mission at that time :—

THE BIRMINGHAM TOWN MISSION

Is founded on the principle that, though all men cannot consent to believe together, they may consent to act together. All Christians, whose main object is to bring sinners to Christ rather than to inculcate particular dogmas may, without compromise of principle, unite in purely missionary operations. Protestants hold certain fundamental truths in common, and believe that men are saved by accepting those truths which unite, rather than the minor articles of faith which divide them. All possible care is taken by the Committee to employ as Missionaries and Bible Women only such persons as will conscientiously let alone topics on which Christians differ, and teach only those on which all agree. The Agents' work is, therefore, purely elementary, and ceases when the work of the Pastor commences.

Of the twenty gentlemen entrusted with the management of the Society, nine are Churchmen, four are Baptists, six Independents, and one a Wesleyan. Of the fourteen Agents employed, three Missionaries and three Bible Women are connected with the Church of England, one

Missionary and one Matron with the Established Church of Scotland, and the other six are Dissenters. As efficiency and a catholic spirit, and not denominational connection, qualify for management and agency, the proportion of Churchmen to Dissenters varies almost annually ; but the above relative numbers are taken from the last Annual Report.

The aim of the Society in domiciliary visitation, in conducting Elementary and Sewing Classes, and Mothers' Meetings, is not to build up churches of its own, but to increase the attendance of existing places of worship ; it has, therefore, nothing to show of the accumulated results of the thirty-two years it has been in existence. Of such work as may be tabulated the statistics prove that the Society deserves the confidence of the town. During the last nine years among a class whom only missionary agency can reach, 7,869 copies of the Scriptures, 2,065 Prayer Books, 531 Hymn Books, and 2,480 Miscellaneous Works have been sold at cost price. During the last eleven years 624 fallen women have had an opportunity in the two Refuges to redeem their character ; of whom 318 were placed in service, and 138 restored to their friends. Even those who cannot heartily co-operate with a society founded on non-denominational principles, would surely regard it a calamity to the town should such work be suspended from want of that little pecuniary help which it is in the power of every church and chapel, and every earnest-minded Christian to bestow.

The Society is dependent on voluntary contributions aided by occasional congregational collections and legacies. The regular subscriptions have never been equal to the expenditure, the balance being made up by special effort. The last two or three years no help has been derived from extraordinary sources ; within twelve months £70 10s. have lapsed through the death of two contributors ; furnishing and unlooked-for alterations in Tindal House Refuge have cost £120 ; these together have involved a debt of £400.

The Society has never had a larger permanent income than it has at present. It has never employed a more numerous or more efficient staff of Agents. An average amount of £5 from every Church and Chapel in the town would more than relieve from present embarrassment ; and a similar amount in subscriptions would enable the Committee to extend the sphere of the Society.

Having thus briefly stated the constitution and aim, some of the results, and some of the difficulties of the Town Mission, the Committee earnestly entreat the Clergy, Ministry, and Laity of the churches to aid them by Congregational Collections and personal Contributions. By giving the Secretary access to the pulpit, or, where this is impossible, by allowing papers to be circulated in the pews, efficient help may be rendered to a Society which has no interests of its own to serve, but exists for the common welfare of all religious bodies. The Committee have no

hesitation in saying that such help as the Society needs may be afforded without injuriously affecting the interests of particular Congregations.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

GEORGE DIXON, President.
WM. MIDDLEMORE, } Vice-Presidents.
G. F. MUNTZ, }
JOHN UNETT, Chairman.
MICAIAH HILL, Secretary.

The Secretary has also prepared the following outline of the financial history of the Mission from its formation to 1870, which in a succinct and lucid manner gives a large amount of interesting information :—

The history of the Town Mission is divided into three distinct periods. The first is a period of thirteen years—from 1838 to 1850. The accession of Mr. W. Chance and Mr. T. Beilby, and a donation of £400 by Mrs. Glover in 1850, infused fresh life and vigour into the Society, which then entered on its second period—embracing six years ending in 1856. The third period began with April, 1856, when Mr. Hill was appointed Secretary, and includes thirteen years and nine months, ending December, 1869.

In April, 1856, the funds of the Society were, in the words of Mr. Beilby, the Vice-Chairman, 'in an alarming state.' The recent death of the Chairman, Mr. Chance, entailed a loss of £70—his personal contribution—and of £65—the amount contributed by the firm of Messrs. Chance. The credit balance of £747 at the bank in 1853 had been reduced to £285 in 1854, to £145 in 1855, and to £36 in 1856. The Committee had thus to meet an annual expenditure of £837 with an income suddenly reduced to £620. Such was the financial condition of the Town Mission in April, 1856.

From conference with the Rev. J. Angell James, Dr. J. C. Miller, and others, the Secretary found that the growing preference of congregational action to associated effort was undermining the Society; and that to preserve it from gradual extinction it was necessary to open up ground not occupied by scripture readers and congregational missionaries. Hence Mission rooms for adult classes were founded in 1859 and 1860; the Mission to Cabmen was started in 1860; Bible Women were engaged in 1863; the Refuge in Noel Road was opened in 1858, and that in Tindal Street in 1863. There can be no question that by such means the Society was saved from the fate which has befallen Town Missions in Sheffield, Wolverhampton, Derby, Nottingham, and elsewhere.

The average number of agents employed in the first period was under *three;* in the second period the number rose from *six* to *thirteen* and then

reduced to *nine*, but with an income capable of supporting only *seven;* at the end of the third period the number was *eleven*, exclusive of two laundresses and their assistants at the Refuges.

The average income of the first period was £194 ; of the second £800 ; and of the third £1,313.

During the third period the Society has acquired property in value about £4,294 ; consisting of money out at interest—which is a source of income—and of leasehold and two freehold properties (exclusive of the furniture in the Refuges), which entail increased expenditure. In 1860 the debt of the Society was £303, in 1861 it was £437, which was reduced to £47 in 1864. In 1865 it rose to £150, fell to £88 in 1867, rose again to £346 in 1868, and to £468 in 1869.

By the timely help of legacies amounting to £1,809 in the six years ending in 1867, and the sale of useful articles voluntarily contributed, amounting to £289 in 1863 and £362 in 1867, the Society overcame its difficulties, and built, enlarged, and furnished the Refuge Laundries. No aid has been derived from such exceptional sources during the last three years, and, on the other hand, the loss of £71 per annum by the death of two of the largest contributors has further embarrassed the Town Mission.

The debt, now amounting to about £500, standing in the name of the Town Mission, has been incurred on behalf of the two Refuges. These institutions have not always been able to pay the salaries of the resident missionaries, which have consequently been charged to the account of the Town Mission.

The interest on Mr. Crowley's legacy, which will in future produce £50 per annum, some fresh annual subscriptions, the temporary reduction of the staff of agents, will soon equalize the income and expenditure.

The above sketch of the working of this noble Christian Society has been prepared from material supplied by the Rev. Micaiah Hill, the zealous and self-sacrificing Secretary of the Mission.

BIRMINGHAM REFORMATORIES AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

"REFORMATION is cheap at any price." Whatever may have been the opinion which generally obtained in former days as to the advantages of reformatory over revengeful measures for criminals, scarcely two opinions exist at the present time as to the necessity and benefit to the State and to Society of the reformatory movement which has lately spread so rapidly throughout England. Since Bacon wrote, "Reason and experience are against increased severity and revengeful punishment, yet they hold their places," a great change has taken place in the ideas of Englishmen, in the laws of the land, and in the conduct and sentences of the executive of those laws. Thought and experience, and increased knowledge and intelligence, have had their natural effect; and now, instead of the poor little wayward offender being hardened, by the very action of the law designed to cure him, into the audacious and successful scamp preying upon society, a curse to himself and to everyone with whom he comes in contact, "mercy tempers justice," and the little fellow, coming under the beneficent influence of kindness, is, in the majority of cases, recalled to the path of honesty, and lives to bless the means by which his reformation has been brought about. Experience has shown that this principle is applicable not only to children but to adults. Mr. M. D. Hill, the late Recorder of Birmingham, said in one of his addresses to the Grand Jury:—

> As to both classes (children and adults) reformatory discipline ought to be regarded as the rule. If pity, in minds well regulated, has relation rather to the depth of the misery which calls it forth than to the aspect,

winning or repulsive, which that misery may chance to wear, the neglected and ill-trained man has even a stronger claim on our good feelings than belongs to his younger competitor ; and if the community is bound to take charge of the child, with the intent to reform him, can it be relieved from that responsibility by permitting him to remain in his vicious courses until he grows up a man ?

Birmingham may fairly claim the honour of having begun the movement which led to passing the first three Acts of Parliament bearing on this subject. It is true that, previous to the matter being taken up in Birmingham, the subject had occupied the earnest attention of thoughtful and philanthropic men throughout the country, and several experiments in the shape of reformatory schools had been commenced, still no decided and organized movement had been made.

In December, 1851, a Conference was held at Birmingham, to consider what remedies the public welfare demanded for the existing condition of the children of the dangerous classes. The published proceedings of the Conference aroused an interest in the whole subject, and a committee, which was then appointed, entered into communication with the Government. Changes in the Ministry occasioned delay, but eventually Mr. Adderley, M.P. for North Staffordshire, obtained the appointment of a Select Parliamentary Committee to inquire into the treatment of juvenile criminals, and to report what alteration should be made for combining industrial and reformatory objects with the necessary correction of offences. With great diligence the Select Committee, under the presidency of the Right Hon. M. T. Baines, applied themselves to their labours, and in June, 1853, they reported, and the House of Commons, by resolution, declared the absolute necessity of the propositions which had emanated from the Birmingham Conference being carried into effect. While the subject was thus pressed on the attention of the Home Office and of Parliament, efforts were made to induce the Committee of Council on Education to help in remedying the evils and supplying the deficiences which the labourers in the work of reformatory training have such deep reason to

complain of and lament. The Committee of Council were petitioned to so modify their regulations, and extend their aid, as to make ragged and industrial schools more efficient, as well for the improvement of the pupils as for the preparation of teachers and masters in them. The answer to this petition was unfavourable; and while schools for the middle, lower, and even pauper classes, enjoyed effectual sanction and assistance from the funds voted for educational purposes, schools for that class which, for its own sake, and for the interests of the community which it endangers, most needed support, were almost excluded from any share in the grant. Meanwhile more Reformatory. Schools were established, and the reports from the managers were most favourable. Locally, great interest was felt in the subject; and in December, 1853, another Conference was held at the Royal Hotel, Birmingham. The circular calling the meeting contained, amongst others, the names of Lord Calthorpe, Earl of Denbigh, Lord Lyttelton, Lord Leigh, the Bishop of Worcester, Mr. C. B. Adderley, M.P., Mr. J. S. Pakington, M.P., Mr. G. F. Muntz, M.P., Mr. W. Scholefield, M.P., Mr. J. Baldwin (Mayor of Birmingham), Rev. J. A. James, Rev. Sidney Turner, Mr. Thomas Sidney (Lord Mayor of London), Mr. Monckton Milnes, M.P., Mr. W. Morgan (Town Clerk of Birmingham), Mr. M. D. Hill (Recorder of Birmingham), Mr. Joseph Sturge, and Mr. C. H. Bracebridge. At the Conference, letters, apologising for non-attendance, but full of hearty sympathy with the promoters, were read from Lord Brougham, Mr. Joseph Hume, M.P., Mr. Cobden, M.P., Mr. Russell Gurney, Q.C., the Right Hon. J. Stuart Wortley, Q.C., and other philanthropists and thinkers of the day. Mr. Adderley reported that he had prepared and presented to Parliament a Bill for supplying Reformatory Schools throughout England, which he had withdrawn upon a promise from the Government that they would take up the matter in the following session. Sir John Pakington, the President of the Conference, earnestly pleaded that Government should be assisted in fulfilling this promise, by sustained public interest and watchfulness. The appeal

was not made in vain. Great meetings were held in different parts of the country to advocate the cause of preventing and curing, as well as punishing, crime, and of putting an end to the strange anomaly of leaving the poor outcast child to become infected and corrupted, and only caring for him when he is well nigh past recovery or rescue. More and more Reformatory Schools were opened, kindly and moral influence, homelike associations, and industrial occupations being the chief agents employed in the reformatory process. Boys were obtained who had been in gaol or who were engaged in a criminal course of life. At first the boys were simply received as voluntary scholars, there being no power of detention, their maintenance being defrayed by subscription. But few cases occurred of lads absconding. The combined action of the supporters of these institutions obtained at length from the Legislature the two Acts of 1854 and 1855, under the title of "The Juvenile Offenders' Act."

"The first states that it is expedient that more extensive use be made of reformatories established by voluntary contributions. It then gives power to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, upon application made to him by the manager or managers of any such institution, to direct one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Prisons to report upon its conditions and regulations; and if, upon that report, the Secretary of State shall certify that it is useful and efficient for its purpose, it will by that certificate be constituted a reformatory under the provisions of the Act. The Secretary of State has power to withdraw his certificate if any subsequent report renders that step desirable. To any certified Reformatory, any person under 16 years, who shall have committed any offence punishable by law, may, by the sentence of a magistrate, be sent for any period not less than two, and not more than five years; any child so introduced must first undergo an imprisonment of not less than 14 days in gaol. The Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may contribute either the whole cost of the child's maintenance or such portion of the cost as shall not have been recovered from the parents or step-parents. Any inmate of a reformatory, who may abscond or refuse to conform to the rules of the establishment, is liable to imprisonment for three calendar months. By the second Act, provision is made for the appointment, by the Secretary of State, of an officer whose business it will be to recover contributions from the parents of children detained in reformatories, and to account to Her Majesty's Treasury for the sum obtained. The receiver will summon the parent of a youthful offender before a magistrate, who

is empowered, after enquiry, to fix an amount, not exceeding 5s. per week, to be paid during the period of the child's detention. The sum so determined will be recoverable by distress, and the defaulting parent is further liable to 10 days' imprisonment for such occasion on which it shall appear that no sufficient goods can be found.

Thus the power of detention in reformatories was obtained. The Legislature wisely determined to leave the conductors of reformatories not only to decide their own principles of management, but to carry out their benevolent work as voluntary labourers in the cause of the moral improvement of the youthful offenders with which the country was then filled, without being harassed by official interference. It will be seen that these Acts applied only to boys that had been in prison—convicted criminals—and made no provision for grants in regard to children who were taken away from pernicious training and bad example, but not convicted, as, under the Acts, it was a *sine quâ non* that each candidate for admission to a reformatory must have undergone at least 14 days' imprisonment. Thus a great step had been taken; provision was made for criminal children, leaving subsequent legislation to deal with the case of vagrants and destitute children not under conviction. The result was that there was scarcely a county in England in which philanthropy and benevolence did not establish one or more reformatory institutions or industrial schools. In 1854, the National Reformatory Union was formed, which agitated the subject and held great meetings throughout the country, resulting in the passing of the Industrial Schools Act, in 1857. This Act, by removing the condition that each child sent to a reformatory, towards the maintenance of whom a grant was made by Government, must have been convicted, provided for the care and education of vagrant, destitute, and disorderly children, whether they had been convicted or not. Under the title of Industrial Schools, a number of institutions were established throughout the country under the Act, and accomplished the reformation of many little "Arabs," waifs and strays, who would doubtless have otherwise soon found them-

selves in durance vile, and have earned the title of "gaol birds." The Act of 1857 was amended in 1861, and both reformatories and industrial schools continued to prosper and to increase throughout the country. In 1865 a further impetus was given to the movement by the holding of an industrial exhibition of the work of these schools, which was opened by the Prince of Wales, in the Agricultural Hall, Islington, and in the following year the different Acts relating to reformatories were all consolidated under "The Reformatory Schools' Act, 1866."

By this Act any one of her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State is authorised, on the application of the managers of a Reformatory, and after a proper report by the Inspector of Reformatories, to certify that the school is fitted for the reception of youthful offenders. The inquiries are chiefly directed to the means of detention and industrial employment, the qualification of the teachers, and the nature of the supervision exercised by the managers. The school must be inspected—during the time it remains certified—at least once a year by the Inspector of Reformatories. The managers may refuse to receive any child sent by the magistrates, but when once received they are liable for his education, clothing and maintenance for the whole period of detention. In choosing a reformatory for a child, the magistrates, so far as is possible, must select a school conducted in accordance with the religious persuasion to which the child, or his parents or guardians belong. The managers of reformatories have power to apprentice the lads under their charge, and to place them out on license, in the houses of respectable and trustworthy persons, and weekly allowances are made for the supervision of such boys. Refusals to conform to the rules of the Institution, and attempts to escape are offences against the Act. Government contributes a certain sum towards the maintenance of each offender, and, where possible, the parents or guardians are compelled also to pay a weekly contribution. Under this Act all reformatories in England now exist.

All previous Acts relating to industrial schools were consolidated and amended by the "Industrial Schools' Act, 1866." By this Act many of the conditions imposed upon reformatories by the "Reformatory Schools' Act, 1866," were imposed on Industrial Schools, such as the annual inspection by a Government Inspector, the grants by Government, the power given to prison authorities and other bodies to contribute towards the erection of the schools and the maintenance of

inmates. The great difference between the two Acts, however, is in the description of the children admitted. It must be clearly borne in mind that through the whole of these Acts the Legislature has maintained a complete distinction between Reformatories and Industrial Schools, and separate Acts have been passed for either. Whether in the future this distinction will be maintained is a question, but hitherto the schools have been intentionally distinguished. Under the Reformatory Schools Act, as we have stated, the children admitted to the institutions must be under sixteen years of age, and must have been convicted; whilst children admitted into Industrial Schools must be under fourteen years of age, and must *not* have been convicted, but must be found begging or destitute, or without home or proper guardians. In most other respects the two Acts are similar.

The provisions in the two Acts by which children are, so far as possible, placed under the religious teaching of the persuasion to which they or their parents belong, have induced the erection of separate Reformatories and Industrial Schools for Protestant and Roman Catholic children; and whenever it is possible these distinctions are maintained. But when, through want of room or other causes, a child is sent to a school where doctrines other than those of the persuasion to which it appears he belongs are taught, a minister of his own persuasion has access to him at stated times.

At the end of 1869 there were in England 51 Reformatories, of which 32 were for Protestant boys and 4 for Roman Catholic boys, 12 for Protestant girls and 3 for Roman Catholic girls. At that time these schools contained 2,695 Protestant boys and 669 Protestant girls; 839 Roman Catholic boys and 191 Roman Catholic girls; making a total of 4,394 children. The total expenditure for the year was £118,418 19s. 11d., and receipts, including Government grants, profit on goods made, parents' payments, &c., £125,256 1s. 5d. The average nett cost per head was, boys, £17 16s. 1d.; girls, £16 15s. 10d.

At the end of 1869 the number of Industrial Schools established in England was 60, in which were 2,665 Protestant boys and 617 Protestant girls; 811 Roman Catholic boys and 441 Roman Catholic girls; total, 4,534. The expenditure was £138,407 10s. 10d., and the receipts £142,992 16s. The average cost per head was, boys, £18 9s. 7d., girls, £15 3s. 11d.

It is interesting to note the diminution in crime by young persons under the age of 16, which followed the establishment of these institutions. Of course, other causes tended to produce this result; but in claiming that a great portion of it is attributable to the influence of these establishments, it will be generally admitted that the managers claim no more than their due. Such kindred associations as the Neglected Children's Aid Society, and the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society have no doubt produced an effect, and a very marked effect; but it is chiefly owing to our Reformatories and our Industrial Schools that the nurseries for criminals have been stopped, that the spring of crime has been partially—though, alas! not wholly—dried up, and that the published statistics of our prison authorities are so satisfactory. The total commitments to prison of young persons under the age of 16, in the years following the establishment of these institutions, were as follows:—

	BOYS.	GIRLS.	TOTAL.
1856	11,808	2,173	13,981
1857	10,822	1,679	12,501
1858	8,837	1,499	10,329
1859	7,583	1,331	8,913
1860	6,765	1,264	8,029
1861	7,373	1,428	8,801
1862	7,080	1,269	8,349
1863	7,208	1,251	8,459
1864	7,536	1,321	8,857
1865	8,350	1,290	9,640
1866	8,099	1,257	9,356
1867	8,285	1,346	9,631
1868	8,702	1,377	10,079
1869	8,956	1,358	10,314

This must be admitted to be a most satisfactory result, considering the large increase in population of late years. From 1854 to 1860 the commitments of adults rapidly increased in number annually, but after that year, and when it may fairly be presumed that the effect of the establishment of these Institutions began to be perceptibly felt on the statistics of crime, there was a steady diminution in the number of the yearly increase. How could this be otherwise when between 1854 and 1860 about 40,000 children were admitted into these schools, children who would otherwise without doubt have swelled the ranks of the criminal population of the country.

The Town Council of Birmingham—the prison authority for the borough—has not availed itself of its full powers in respect to these schools. Beyond establishing one school at Shustoke, it has done literaly nothing. Repeated applications have been made to the Council to subscribe towards the different schools to which Birmingham children are sent; but the Council has steadfastly adhered to the principle of not subscribing towards any institution in the management of which it had no voice. By the Education Act of 1870, however, the power passed from the Town Council to the School Board.

Saltley Reformatory.—This Reformatory was the first Institution of the kind certified in England, and it continues to be one of the most successful of these institutions. It may be said to have resulted from an experiment made by Mr. Joseph Sturge. In 1852 that benevolent gentleman took three houses in Ryland Road, and placed them under the superintendence of Mr. Ellis, who had taken great interest in reformatory work in London. These cottages were soon filled with boys taken from the Birmingham gaol on the completion of their sentences, and the success of the experiment and the gradual growth of opinion on the subject led to the establishment, in 1853, of the "Birmingham Reformatory Institution," of which Lord Calthorpe was the president; Mr. M. D. Hill (Recorder of Birmingham), the vice-president; Mr. W. Morgan

(Town Clerk), hon. secretary; Mr. W. Chance, hon. treasurer; and Mr. Charles Ratcliff, hon. financial secretary. Mr. C. B. Adderley (now Sir Charles Adderley) offered to build a house suitable for the purpose of a Reformatory, at Saltley, with workshops and dormitories for 20 boys, with five acres of land attached, at a nominal rent of five shillings an acre. The committee thankfully accepted this offer. Liberal donations and subscriptions were obtained, and the work was begun. The house was afterwards enlarged to accommodate 30 boys, and new workshops were built. Two principles were from the first carefully kept in view by the committee, which may be said to have been the groundwork of the success of the Institution: firstly, never to indulge in any display or make any provision for accommodation beyond that required; secondly, that the work should be done gradually, being in the nature of an experiment on a subject of the greatest national importance. Mr. Ellis exercised a most beneficial influence on the boys under his charge. A matron, a superintendent of the boys' field labour, a master shoemaker, and a master tailor, were engaged, and a market for the products of the boys' work was easily found. The manner in which the movement was appreciated may be judged from the following paragraph of Mr. Ellis's first report to the Committee:—"Such is our state at Saltley, that I went to the borough gaol on the 26th December, and begged the Deputy-Governor not to send me any more lads. The applications are most distressing. Widows bring their children,—fathers, masters, friends, pleading for orphans,—many boys come of their own accord,—but the most pleasing fact to me is the boys' intercession on behalf of their own companions." The donations for the first year amounted to £450, out of which £236 7s. was expended in buildings and furniture: the receipts and expenditure were as follows, showing a deficiency on the year of £47 1s. 6d.:—

Receipts: Payments with children, £6 4s.; children's labour, £1 10s.; sale of shoes, &c., £7 16s.; interest allowed by the bank, £8 8s. 1d.; subscriptions, £366 13s.—£390 11s. 1d.; balance, being deficiency on

current account, £47 1s. 6d.; total, £437 12s. 7d. Payments: John Ellis, for maintenance, clothing of boys, &c., from December 31st, 1852, to October 1st, 1853, £140 13s.; house expenses, October 1st to December 31st, 1853, £84 8s. 7½d.; boys' clothing ditto, £19 19s. 3d.; salaries, £30—£134 7s. 10½d.; C. Barkham, one year's wages, £52; sundry expenses on land, &c., £23 0s. 0½d.—£75 0s. 0½d. shoemakers' salaries, leather, &c., £57 0s. 1d.; incidental expenses, advertising, &c., &c., £30 11s. 7d.; total, £437 12s. 7d.

A liberal offer had been made towards the establishment of a girls' reformatory, which was cheerfully accepted, and a house in Camden Street was opened, and conducted by a Ladies' Committee, under the superintendence of the General Committee.

By permission of the Rev. Canon Gover, at that time principal of Saltley Training College, a pupil teacher from that institution officiated as schoolmaster, devoting two hours each evening to the duty. In the day time the boys were sent to their respective occupations of tailoring, shoemaking, or farm work.

The passing of Lord Palmerston's Act in 1854, permitted grants to be made from the Treasury towards the maintenance of each inmate. This materially aided the funds. In the following year some additions were made to the Saltley Home, enabling fifty boys to be accommodated. About this time an experiment was made of granting aid to the boys to emigrate, the scheme was attended with such success that the practice has been continued to the present time. Mr. Ellis resigned in 1857, and was succeeded by the present Superintendent, Mr. Humphreys, whose management and solicitude for the welfare of the boys placed under his care have led to highly beneficial results.

Through the kindness of Mr. Adderley, funds were raised for additional enlargements, and a further plot of two and a half acres of ground adjoining the school was secured on the same terms as the other five acres. Still the institution proved too small for the number of children that were sent there from Warwickshire, Staffordshire, and other counties; and the Earl of Lichfield, on behalf of the county of Stafford,

promised a contribution of £800 towards further enlargement. This was commenced, and at the annual meeting, in 1860, the committee reported that the institution was now enabled to receive one hundred inmates; and that arrangements had been made with Mr. Adderley for extending the land under lease, adjoining the institution, to 22 acres. By careful management and judicious economy on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Humphreys the average weekly cost per inmate, including everything, was reduced from 10s. 3¾d. to 7s. 3¾d. per week.

In 1863 Mr. Humphreys commenced agitating for more land. His firm conviction, as expressed in the reports to the Committee, was, that, in combination with sound useful school instruction and good moral training, the diligent and handy use of the spade was the most thoroughly suitable employment for Reformatory boys; as, at least, by it the physical strength necessary to earn an honest living by any rough work was obtained. The Committee at first hesitated to comply with the wishes of the superintendent. He, however, steadily persevered in his endeavours, reiterating his opinion year after year in his report, and keeping a watch on suitable land which came into the market. In 1866 the Reformatory received the advantages of the Reformatories' Act, and these added no little to the progress of the Institution. A number of satisfactory and gratifying letters were received from former inmates of the Institution who had been assisted to emigrate, showing the usefulness of the training and education of the Reformatory, and the large amount of good accomplished. The report presented at the annual meeting, in December, 1870, contained the report of the Rev. Sidney Turner, Government Inspector, who stated:—

I inspected the Institution with very great satisfaction, finding the boys well, cheerful, and in good order, the premises clean and comfortable, and the industrial and general instruction thoroughly well attended to. In the examination, I find the reading very satisfactory, and writing from dictation very creditable, the knowledge of Scripture and general intelligence above the usual average.

Mr. Humphreys showed in his report that the object of his desires had been accomplished by the acquisition of 46 acres of land, about a mile from the Institution. The report also stated :—

> The average of reclamation has increased in a small degree, viz. :—from 69·42 to 71·27, and the average of reconviction has likewise undergone a slightly favourable change—from 2·70 to 2·43. The percentage of reconvictions being, at Redhill, 2·81, and the average percentage of all Reformatory Schools taken together, 4·41. We have to deal with a class of children who have very strong claims upon the benevolence of the public. Homeless, friendless, ignorant, and, say also, vicious, but not one of whom can be truly said to have become so mainly through faults of their own. The juvenile criminal, unlike the poet, is *made*, not born.

At the close of 1869 there were 76 boys in the school. The expenses, including salaries, provisions, rent, and material, were £1,986 2s. 7½d., and the receipts, including subscriptions, Government allowance, county grants, proceeds of boots, clothing, and pigs sold, were £2,299 7s. 2½d. leaving a balance in favour of the Institution of £313 3s. 7d., exclusive of the amount paid to the Warwickshire Girls' Reformatory. The capital account showed the Institution to be worth £3,179 9s. 4d., invested in stock and shares.

Vale Street Industrial School.—The success of an institution does not always depend upon its size. It has happily fallen to the lot of the managers of the Ragged and Industrial School in Vale Street to have accomplished a large amount of good with very limited means.

The school was originated by the amalgamation of Hill Street School with the Inkleys' School and the former school from the old Swallow Street School. In a room over a stable in the Inkleys, Mr. J. C. Phillips and his family began to educate a few little street urchins. The School was formed in 1861, by the amalgamation of the two schools, the United Hill Street and Inkleys School. Efforts were at once made to provide suitable premises for the accommodation of the children, and negotiations were entered into with Mr. James Onions for the purchase of two cottages, and a piece of land

in Bread Street. In the meantime the schools were carried on in the premises previously used. New rules for their management were drawn up, the first of which was,—

That the object of this institution shall be to provide instruction for the children of the poor. That such instruction shall be based upon the fundamental principles of religion, as acknowledged by the various bodies of Evangelical Christians, and that it shall include the elements of useful knowledge and, when requisite, such industrial training as the Committee of Management may from time to time decide upon.

The Institution embraced day schools for boys and girls, night and Sunday schools, and classes for youths and adults, and the number of scholars increased to such an extent that it was soon found that the premises then in use were totally inadequate. Some buildings and land in Vale Street appeared more suitable for the purpose than Mr. Onion's property in Bread Street, and the freehold was secured on generous terms from Mr. Stokes. It was then determined either to alter the buildings, or to erect a suitable school-room and accessories, the estimated cost of which was £650. Towards this sum £170 had been promised, and earnest endeavours were made to raise the remainder, and eventually it was decided to alter and extend the building. When this was completed, though trammelled with a building debt, the Committee found means to extend their operations, and obtained subscriptions, which left a balance of £3 6s. 9d. in favour of the Society, over the year's expenditure in 1863. In that year the Committee reported an average attendance in the day school of 125, in the Sunday schools 174, in in the week night classes from 10 to 20, and in the girls' week-night schools, 65. There was still a balance of £186 due to the treasurer of the building fund, and donations towards this amount were earnestly solicited. A bazaar, held in the following year, produced upwards of £400, out of which the mortgage on the building was paid off. In the Committee's report for that year it was stated :—

The nature of schools of this class does not warrant the expectation of a very marked improvement in the scholars, who are for the most part

from homes where punctuality is but little understood ; the attendance of the children is consequently irregular, and the temptation of wages induces parents to send their children to work at a very early age. It is, nevertheless, a satisfaction to observe greater order and cleanliness in the children, and such a degree of improvement as to render it certain that useful and good work is being accomplished among the poor class for which the school is designed.

The Committee of the Institution included the names of many of the philanthropists of the town, amongst whom were Alderman Ryland, Mr. Brooke Smith, Mr. C. J. Phillips, Mr. T. W. Holdsworth, Mr. W. Howell, Mr. C. Ratcliff, Mr. Wade, Mr. J. O. C. Phillips, and Mr. J. B. Tolkein. Mr. J. O. C. Phillips acted as secretary, and Mr. Brooke Smith as president. In the following year a Magistrates' Industrial School for girls was established in connection with the Vale Street Ragged School, and the school was certified as an Industrial School under the Act of 1866. Two rooms in the dwelling-house attached to the schools were set apart for dormitories for the girls, and the necessary preliminary arrangements having been made and inspected by the Rev. Sidney Turner, one of her Majesty's inspectors of schools, a certificate was granted. Mrs. Ingram, who with her husband, had for some years had charge of the premises in Vale Street, was appointed to the office of matron. The limited accommodation at their disposal compelled the committee to maintain at first a rigid selection in the cases which they admitted into the institution. Hitherto the committee had dealt with children voluntarily placed under their control for a few hours daily. Now they had to take charge of, feed, clothe, and train a class of children who would otherwise be either wilfully or negligently left under the influence of vice and misery, and in positions where the temptations to fall were great, and where the inducements to maintain the path of rectitude were small indeed. With these increased responsibilities the committee felt that they had need of larger funds, and, appealing to the philanthropy of the town, were not disappointed in the result. The committee thus

reported the introduction of the first child into the Girls' Industrial School :—

February 7th. The committee have now the satisfaction of stating that the Certified Industrial School has become the asylum of its first inmate. A little girl E—— P——, ten years of age, was found by a policeman on a doorstep, homeless and entirely destitute. Her father, a sailor, had not been heard of for several years, and her mother died a few weeks ago ; since which time the child had been under the care of an aunt, but who had gone away and left her. She was sent temporarily to the workhouse by Mr. Kynnersley, until he could ascertain whether she could be received into this school : to Mr. Kynnersley's kind application the committee very gladly acceded, and the child is now in Vale Street School.

In that year the cash account showed a balance of £4 16s. 9d. of receipts over expenditure; and a favourable balance of £330 on the deposit accounts.

In a quiet and unostentatious manner this little undertaking has been carried on to the present day (1870,) silently, but surely, influencing for good the neighbourhood in which it is situated. With an income of under £200 a year, the work done has been comparatively large, and the beneficent influences have radiated into every court and alley of that miserable and wretched portion of the town.

Shustoke Industrial School.—This school has from its establishment been under the control of the Birmingham Town Council, and is used solely for boys found destitute or vagrant in the borough of Birmingham. At a special meeting of the Town Council, held on the 25th of June, 1867, it was moved by Alderman Ryland, and seconded by Councillor Yates,—

That such a contribution as will be sufficient to provide a school for 40 boys, under the Industrial Schools Act, 1866, be made, pursuant to that Act, by this Council, and that the Finance, Rate, and Appeal Committee be instructed to make provision in their estimate for the next borough rate for such contribution. Also, that in the meantime the General Purposes Committee be instructed to ascertain the terms upon which a school may be obtained, and submit a report thereon, together with an estimate of the cost thereof, and of establishing and maintaining such school, to this Council for approval, and that it be an instruction

to the Committee that the cost of the land and buildings shall not exceed £2,000, and the cost of maintenance shall not exceed £150 per year.

Alderman Sadler moved, and Councillor Tonks seconded, an amendment to the effect,—

That it was desirable that the Council should contribute towards the building, establishing, and supporting an Industrial School; and that the General Purposes Committee be instructed to report an estimate of the cost of land and buildings sufficient to accommodate forty boys, and the maintenance thereof per annum.

The original resolution was carried almost unanimously. Acting on their instruction, the General Purposes Committee began the work of advertising and inquiry, and on the 7th of January, 1868, they presented a report to the Council. Offers of premises in different localities were received, and the committee recommended those situate at Shustoke and High Harborne as the only eligible ones; proximity to a populous neighbourhood, insufficient accommodation, or other disadvantage, rendering the others more or less unsuitable. The offer of the premises at High Harborne was subsequently withdrawn, and the Shustoke establishment was the only suitable one left. A deputation from the General Purposes Committee visited the certified Industrial Schools at East Barnett, to ascertain the mode of management and the result, where farming operations were carried on. The Shustoke estate, consisting of a dwelling and 45 acres of land, was offered at a yearly rental of £130. The Council instructed the General Purposes Committee to take the building and land on a lease for 21 years, and to take what steps were necessary for furnishing the house and commencing the school. On the 19th of May, 1868, the General Purposes Committee reported that they had carried out the instructions of the Council; that the Shustoke school had been duly certified; and that they had elected Mr. C. J. Vinall and his wife, late of the Gem Street Industrial School, as master and matron. The requisite repairs to the building had been effected, the furniture, stock, and implements

required for the use of the institution, and the working of the farm had been provided, and the outbuildings had been converted into workshops. About £700 had been spent on the school, in which were 14 lads of from eight to twelve years of age. The school has been carried on since its commencement with very few alterations. The Rev. Sidney Turner, the Government Inspector, has visited the school on several occasions. On the 19th of September, 1869, he reported, "The manners and appearance of the boys are very satisfactory, the premises are in excellent order and thoroughly clean. The books are thoroughly well kept." On the 15th March, 1870, the inspector reported, "I found the boys in good health and in good order." Since the commencement of the school the number of inmates at one time has fluctuated considerably, the highest number being 51.

In order to obtain an idea of the working of the school, we paid a visit to it. Shustoke Station is about twelve miles from Birmingham, on the Leicester line of the Midland Railway. A walk of two miles and a half down a pretty country lane leads to the School, "The Shawberries," as it is called. A square, red-brick building stands a little off the road, and a gravelled path leads to the door. We were courteously and kindly received by Mr. and Mrs. Vinall, who spared no trouble to give us all the information we required, and to show us all portions of the establishment. On the ground floor are the school room, the master's sitting room, and the dining room. Upstairs are five bed rooms, four of which are occupied by the boys. The outbuildings consist of kitchens, bakehouse, tailor's shop, shoemaker's shop, and wash and bath-house. There is one fault pervading the whole of the rooms, and that is they are too small. The best has been made of the materials at the disposal of the Committee, but their resources were limited. At the time of our visit there were 49 boys in the establishment, all of whom, having been found vagrant or destitute in the streets, were committed for a shorter or longer term by the borough magistrates. Forty-five acres of ground are attached to the school, and

the greater part of this was under cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Vinall pursue a judicious and kind course of teatment of the boys, the effects of which are seen in the altered and improved demeanour and character of the inmates. Seldom is personal chastisement resorted to, and only when it is considered absolutely necessary, and every other means have failed to produce the desired effect. For two hours in the morning the lads receive scholastic education, and during the other part of the day till evening they are employed principally on the farm, and a few in the workshops. The evenings are occupied with occasional school work, reading, Divine service, or in some pleasant manner. Two hours a day are allowed the boys for recreation, and this they spend either in innocent amusement, or in working at their "allotment," a piece of ground which is apportioned to each lad, which he digs and plants; and if any profit accrues from the sale of the produce, the lad receives it. This, it will be seen at once, gives a stimulus to the boys to employ their leisure hours profitably and well. Twopence per week is paid to each lad who conducts himself well, as pocket-money, and this he either saves or spends as he chooses. Many of the lads deposit their money in the Post Office Savings' Bank, so that it is evident the habits of thrift which are inculcated have taken some hold on the boys. The house itself was wonderfully clean and tidy, and the arrangements excellent. The boys do all the cleaning, baking, washing, painting, and glazing required on the premises, and the state of the premises proves that what they do, they do well. As regards their health, at no school have we seen rosier, chubbier, healthier, happier-looking lads. The farm work produces a magnificent appetite—one of those appetites which are almost a myth to townspeople—and this is satisfied from the abundance of good, plain, substantial food which is set before them. Disease is rare in the school. Fever has visited it, but the precautions taken have prevented its spread and no serious results followed.

The Government Inspector, on visiting the school on the 15th of September, 1870, says:—

"I examined the boys; they passed very creditably in reading and ciphering, and fairly in writing. The Institution is in excellent order; and the appearance of the boys is very healthy and cheerful."

Gem Street Industrial School.—To the Hon. and Rev. Grantham Yorke belongs the credit of originating and establishing the school which is now certified as an Industrial School in Gem Street. In 1846 that gentleman commenced a free school for the education of children and young persons of the labouring and poorer classes in Birmingham, and in 1849 the school was removed to the spacious buildings at present occupied in Gem Street. For some years the school was principally devoted to the education of the children of soldiers killed in the Crimean War, who were maintained out of the Royal Patriotic Fund. At the same time, the free education of children and young persons was continued so far as the funds at the disposal of the committee would allow. Gradually, year by year, as the children supported by the Patriotic Fund grew up, the numbers sent to the school diminished, and, as the amount paid by the Commissioners of the Royal Patriotic Fund was considerably in excess of the ordinary charge for inmates, the diminution in the number of children seriously affected the finances and prospects of the institution. For 15 or 20 years, however, the school had been the means of effecting a large amount of good at a very little cost to the subscription-giving inhabitants of Birmingham. It was in 1868 that the committee saw clearly that if the school were to be maintained some new step must be taken, and after serious thought and consultation it was determined to apply for a certificate for the school under the Industrial Schools Act of 1866. This was done, and after the usual examinations had been made a certificate was granted on the 26th of March, 1868.

The constitution of the Managing Committee of that year shows that the school, commenced really as a Church of England School, had maintained that distinction throughout. The patron was the Bishop of Worcester, and the Managing Committee consisted of the Mayor of Birmingham, the

Recorder, the Bailiff of the Governors of King Edward's School, the Head Master of King Edward's School, the Rev. Dr. Wilkinson, the Hon. and Rev. Grantham Yorke, the Rev. S. Thornton, the Rev. C. T. Wilkinson, the Rev. J. B. Gabriel, the Rev. Dr. Burges, eleven Church of England laymen, and four Dissenters. The rules of the new certified school laid down that the six rectors and vicars named, with fifteen subscribers of one guinea annually, together with the Mayor, the Recorder, the Bailiff, and Head Master of King Edward's School, should form the committee. The religious and moral instruction of the children was, by the rules, left in the control of the six rectors, and the Court of Appeal in any matter was the bishop of the diocese. The religious instruction given was ordered to be in accordance with the formularies of the Church of England, with a conscience clause as respected catechisms, and creeds. Such a conscience clause, however did not apply to the teaching of the Holy Scriptures in the authorised version, which was daily read and taught to the whole school. All the officers in the Institution were, by the rules, also to be members of the Church of England.

Whilst passing from a private free school to a certified industrial school, its numbers were few, and its expenses exceeded its income. In the first year the number of children committed by the magistrates amounted to 50, and 19 private inmates remained in the institution, making the total number at the close of the year 69. In the same year Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, who for 20 years had zealously and efficiently performed the duties of master and matron, resigned, and were succeeded by Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Crook. The debt on the school was, by increased expenditure, raised that year from £275 4s. 6d. to £460 5s. 10d. The Rev. Sidney Turner, who visited the school in March, 1868, gave it as his decided opinion that he knew of no building so well adapted for the purposes of a certified Industrial School, or of any district where such an institution was so eminently needed. And there is no doubt that, situate as it is, in the very heart of a large manufacturing town, with ample room

and buildings, the Institution has many advantages. One of the greatest disadvantages arises from the fact that there is no farm land on which the boys can be employed; and farm labour is now almost universally admitted to be the best and healthiest employment for boys in Industrial Schools.

In 1869, Mr. and Mrs. Crook were replaced as master and matron, by Mr. and Mrs. T. G. May, and the number of children had increased to upwards of one hundred. During the year the Town Council offered the assistance of 1s. 6d. per week for each girl committed to the Institution by the borough magistrates. This, however, still left such a deficit in the income, that the committee were compelled to take children from the counties of Warwick and Worcester, on condition of payment by the magistrates, in addition to the Government allowance.

On the 8th September, 1870, the Rev. Sidney Turner visited the school and reported as follows:—"I find the school very much improved as to order and appearance of the children, and (considering how rapidly the present inmates have been admitted) the progress in instruction and industrial training have been very satisfactory." The hours of the day are divided as follows:—The boys rise at six o'clock; till nine o'clock they employ themselves in household duties, take breakfast, have prayers and recreation; from nine to twelve o'clock half the school is at work, and the other half at school; twelve to two is occupied with exercise, dinner, and recreation; two to four, half the school at school, the other half at work; four to half-past, recreation; half-past four to six o'clock, work; and from six o'clock to eight, tea, recreation, and prayers. The girls are occupied in pretty much the same manner, excepting that domestic duties take the place of recreation in some portions of the day, and the work, of course, is of a different character.

The work of the boys is almost altogether confined to the stereotyped shoemaking and tailoring. It is difficult to perceive why a lad in an industrial school may not as well, and with more profit to himself, be taught to be a carpenter

as a tailor; and yet visit any industrial school or reformatory, and you rarely see any trade being learnt beyond shoemaking and tailoring. In 1870 the lads in Gem Street made 25 coats, 19 pairs of trousers, 56 caps, 29 cord jackets, 65 pairs of cord trousers, 77 day vests, 48 pairs of list braces, 30 pairs of cloth slippers, 6 Melton jackets, one page's suit, and one suit for boy apprenticed, besides repairing a large number of garments. In the shoemaking establishment 186 pairs of boots and shoes, and 17 pairs of slippers, were made, and nearly 700 pairs repaired. A considerable quantity of sewing work was done by the girls, besides 43 new beds and 25 pillows were made. In addition to this, 52,000 bundles of firewood were put up, and some repairs were done to the building. This shows work of the value of £451 14s. 9d. performed by the inmates during the year.

Penn Street Industrial School.—The late Mr. John Gameson, formerly alderman and councillor of the borough, may be said to have been the founder of the Penn Street Industrial School. Opened as a ragged school, it was in 1861 that, on the invitation of Mr. H. Manton, the then Mayor, a committee of the Penn Street School waited upon the magistrates with reference to applying a portion of the school for the use of an industrial school. After that conference, it was resolved that it was desirable that an industrial school be established. The committee, however, thought that the ragged school should still be maintained as a distinct institution, whilst the magistrates were in favour of amalgamating the two schools. Ultimately it was arranged that the magistrates should build a house for the master, and that the committee of the school should have the management of the Industrial School. An application for a certificate under the Industrial Schools Act was granted; Mr. William Nightingale was appointed master, and Mrs. Wheatley, mistress. Several prominent gentlemen of the town took an active part in the establishing of the Industrial School, amongst whom were Mr. T. C. S. Kynnersley (the Stipendiary Magistrate), Alderman Ryland, Mr. C. Sturge, Alderman

Manton, Mr. Gameson, Mr. Charles Ratcliff, Mr. T. Lloyd, Mr. Boyce, and Mr. J. C. Phillips. On the 26th of June, 1863, Mr. Kynnersley committed the first three boys to the school. Thus the Industrial School was fairly started, and in the next few months many more boys were committed to the school by the magistrates. On October 29, 1863, the Rev. Sidney Turner wrote to the committee on the subject of his inspection, and his letter is valuable as showing at that time the merits and defects of the school. It was as follows:—

Dear Sir,

I was certainly very agreeably surprised to find so great a change for the better in the arrangements and general state of the institution. You have made a great advance, and I think there is every reason to expect the exertions of the new schoolmaster and mistress will place the instruction of the children on a very satisfactory footing. The points which will want attention, now that the number of the boys under magisterial commitment has increased to nearly 20, are:—First, the discipline and instruction of these lads before and after the ordinary school hours, especially of an evening. I think some arrangement should be made for their having an hour's schooling or so, from six or half-past six to eight o'clock. Secondly, the providing some more dormitory accommodation, by substituting smaller bedsteads for those now in use. You could put 20 or 22 in the dormitory as it is, but you will certainly want more room if your school is in any way to meet the wants of Birmingham. Could you not get a little more space out of the part now in use by the matron? I should think she could spare one of the rooms which are now allotted to her family. Thirdly, I think you will find it necessary to have some regular oversight of the boys at night. This could easily be managed from the matron's apartments. I daresay in time you will be in a position to build a little more; but, till then, could you manage to secure one of the adjoining houses, and lodge 10 or 12 boys and the schoolmaster in that.

I am, dear sir,
Very faithfully,

Mr. Alderman Gameson. SIDNEY TURNER.

Acting on the advice contained in this letter, the committee, at their next meeting, took into consideration the propriety of enlarging the industrial part of the school. Mr. Gameson produced some plans for building a new dormitory, which

were inspected and ordered to stand over until the next meeting, when it was resolved to build a bedroom over the washhouse, to be used as a detached sick room, at an expense not exceeding £15. At the same meeting a bold attempt was made to do something for the boys beyond teaching them the stereotyped bootmaking and tailoring. Mr. Gameson reported that he had, at an expense of £2, purchased tools for keeping the boys employed at wire-working, and that he had engaged a man at 5s. per day to instruct the lads. The committee resolved that the trial be continued for three months. The following July it was resolved to take a small back house adjoining the school to increase the dormitory accommodation. An overlooker for the Industrial boys was also engaged. On October 6, 1864, the Rev. Sidney Turner reported "that the accommodation, feeding, and instruction seemed to him as good as the situation of the premises allowed. The introduction of wireworking made a very useful addition to the industrial training of the boys. The rooms were clean and comfortable. On examination he was satisfied with the progress the children had made." At the committee meeting held on February 15, 1865, an important offer was made—an offer which was the more important as there is no labour which equals land labour in its beneficial effects, morally and physically, on the inmates of a Boys' Industrial School. Alderman Ryland stated that a friend would supply sufficient funds to purchase gardening tools, &c., if a plot of land could be rented or procured to employ the boys in leisure hours as a means of healthful exercise. This was a step in the right direction, and a sub-committee was appointed to take the matter into consideration. A piece of land was offered by Mr. E. Robins, but subsequently the negotiations fell through, and for some time the matter remained in abeyance. In 1867, however, Alderman Ryland informed the committee that a friend had placed in his hands the munificent sum of £500 for the purchase of a piece of land adjoining the school, and erecting a work-room, dormitory, and other necessary buildings. One of the conditions of the gift was that the

donor's name should not be published. Alderman Ryland purchased the land in question for £100, at a ground rent of £9 per annum for the remainder of a term of 500 years. From the commencement of the school considerable difficulty had been experienced with the officers, the changes and resignations being frequent. In June, 1865, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas G. May were appointed overlooker and matron. They retained their positions for several years. On November 15th, the Rev. Sidney Turner again reported a favourable examination of the School. In 1867, the number of boys in the school having increased to 45, it was found requisite to obtain further accommodation, and another small house adjoining was added to the school. Still Mr. Ross Jordan, the medical officer, reported a want of further accommodation, which continued until the erection of the new buildings. The buildings and alterations cost £200 over and above the sum at the disposal of the committee, and it was determined to make application to the Town Council for a grant of that amount. The committee set before the Council their view of the case; they showed that, since the conversion of the School to industrial purposes, upwards of £1,000 had been voluntarily raised and expended on the institution, and that, but for this school, a large number of boys would probably either have been in our workhouse or our gaol. The General Purposes Committee of the Town Council replied by the following resolution:—

> That the treasurer of Penn Street School be informed that the Council of the borough decline to assist by grant of money, or otherwise, any industrial school that is not under the direct control of the Council.

The committee then endeavoured to raise the sum required, and to pay off the debt. A sub-committee was appointed to consider the best means of doing this. An appeal to the public was issued, and in February, 1870, Alderman Ryland informed the committee that the late Mr. Robert Smith, of Edgbaston, had left a legacy of £100 for the exclusive use of boys committed by the magistrates to Penn Street School.

In 1870 the committee reduced the adverse balance on the current account from £45 9s. 7d. to £27 19s. 6d. The boys' work was sold for £201 10s.

BIRMINGHAM AMATEUR DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION.

This most successful of Amateur Dramatic Societies has enjoyed a prosperous existence of fifteen years, and still promises to have a long and useful career. It was formed in 1856, by Mr. John Steeple, Mr. S. W. Hill, and Mr. H. J. Whitlock. On October 20 in that year, these three gentlemen held a meeting, at which it was agreed to make an attempt to establish an Amateur Dramatic Society, and they invited several friends to join them in the work. At a subsequent meeting the following circular was approved, and a number of persons named to whom a copy should be sent:—

Birmingham,
November, 1856.

Sir,

Feeling an absence in Birmingham of an Institution for promoting entertainments of a social and intellectual character, and knowing the difficulty of accommodating large assemblies at private rooms, several gentlemen have formed themselves into a committee to establish a Society for the purpose of giving a series of entertainments in which Amateur Dramatic Performances will form the principal feature.

The objects of the Society will be aided by a subscription, each subscriber of 10s. 6d. per annum, being entitled to an admission for himself and one lady to each party during the season, with the privilege of introducing a friend on terms to be hereafter settled by the committee.

The subscribers will be strictly confined to ladies and gentlemen known to the committee, or their immediate friends, thereby securing meetings of a strictly social and respectable character.

The Committee wish it to be distinctly understood that no pecuniary benefit is sought, and should the receipts at the end of the season exceed the outlay, the surplus will be applied to advancing the excellence of future entertainments.

It is expected the first meeting will take place about the middle of December, when the performance of a popular farce and dancing will form the amusement of the evening.

Should our undertaking meet with your approbation, we shall feel obliged by the addition of your name to the list of subscribers.

Signed, on behalf of the Committee,

JOHN STEEPLE.
S. W. HILL.
H. J. WHITLOCK.

The first Committee consisted of Messrs. W. M. Williams, J. A. Langford, H. B. S. Thompson, G. Piggott, T. Anderton, D. J. O'Neill, H. Bourne, John Steeple (Stage Manager and Secretary), S. W. Hill (Treasurer), and H. J. Whitlock (Property Manager).

It was deemed advisible on reconsideration to make the subscription 21s. per annum instead of 10s. 6d., as at first intended. Almost every one to whom the committee sent a circular joined the Association; and at the first meeting, held in the Assembly Rooms, Broad Street, on January 26, 1857, it numbered sixty-five members. The Farce performed on this occasion was "Done on Both Sides." There were two more ordinary meetings this season: February 26th, when "I've Eaten my Friend," and "Box and Cox" were given; and on March 26, with "Luke the Labourer," and "No One Round the Corner," as the bill of fare. A complementary performance was given to Mr. Steeple, in recognition of his great services to the Association, on May 7, at which "The Lady of Lyons," and "A Blighted Being," were performed.

The year 1859 was distinguished in the annals of the Society, by its first public performance. The Council of the Midland Institute were making the most zealous efforts to raise a special fund of £5,000 to complete the sum required for the building. An application was made to the Society to give a performance at the Theatre Royal in aid of the

fund. The request was complied with, and the performance took place, under "most distinguished patronage," on June 3, 1859; the pieces represented being "Plot and Passion," "Le Pauvre Jacques," and "I've Eaten my Friend." The following is the cast:—

PLOT AND PASSION.

Fouché, Duke of Otranto, Minister of Police	D. J. O'Neill.
Désmarets, Head of the Secret Department Police	J. A. Langford.
Marquis of Cévennes, a Legitimist	T. Anderton.
Berthier, Prince of Neufchatel, Grand Chamberlain	G. Piggott.
De Neuville, Secretary to the Marquis de Cévennes	J. Steeple.
Jabot, House Steward to Madame de Fontanges	A. Johnstone.
Grisboulle, a Subordinate of Désmarets	W. Thomas.
Madame de Fontanges	Miss Fanny Bennett.
Cecille, her Maid	Miss Jessie Ryder.

LE PAUVRE JACQUES,

With new music, composed expressly for this occasion, by T. Anderton.

Jacques	W. M. Williams.
Vivid	D. J. O'Neill.
Sequence	H. B. S. Thompson.
Antonio	W. Thomas.
Nina	Miss Hundsfreth.

I'VE EATEN MY FRIEND.

Cockles, Proprietor of the original "Weal Pie Shop"	H. Thomas.
Wigsby, Proprietor of the Easy Shaving Shop	H. J. Whitlock.
Hezekiah Jellytop, a Gentleman of large expectations and vivid sensibility	T. Anderton.
Stubbs, a retired Sergeant	A. Johnstone.
Angelina Cockles	Miss S. Vivash.

The Theatre was crowded on this occasion; the critics were warm in their praises of the acting; the audience was enthusiastic in their applause; the amateurs were gratified with their reception; and the Institute Building Fund was increased by £92 4s. 5d., the profit realised by the performance.

In 1861, the Association tried its skill at original compositions, and produced a Drama and a Farce, written by two of its members.

They were performed on April 18, the closing night of the season. The play was a three act Drama, entitled "Good for Evil," by C. W. Williams; and the afterpiece, a Farce in one act called, "A Ghost or No Ghost," by Mr. J. A. Langford. Both pieces were well received by the members, and not unfavourably by the critics, but they have not as yet taken possession of any other stage.

In this year, the Society gave its second public performance, at the Theatre Royal, which was again for the benefit of the Midland Institute. It took place on October 17, 1861, and the pieces played were "All that Glitters is not Gold," "Bombastes Furioso," and "A Wonderful Woman." The following was the cast:—

ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD.

Sir Arthur Lassell	C. W. Williams.
Jasper Plum	D. J. O'Neill.
Stephen Plum	J. Steeple.
Frederick Plum	C. Davies.
Toby Twinkle	S. Hill.
Harris	R. Thomas.
Lady Leatherbridge	Mrs. H. Leigh.
Lady Valeria Westendleigh	Miss Harding.
Martha Gibbs	Miss Cleveland.

BOMBASTES FURIOSO.

Artaxaminos	T. Anderton.
Fusbos	H. Thomas.
General Bombastes	W. M. Williams.
Distaffina	Miss H. Watson.

A WONDERFUL WOMAN.

The Marquis de Frontignac	C. Davies.
The Viscount de Millefleurs	D. J. O'Neill.
Rodolphe, a Young Painter	A. Johnstone.
Crepin, a Cobler	J. A. Langford.
Tailor	R. Thomas.
Madame Hortense Bertrand, a Rich Widow	Miss Cleveland.
Cecile, her Neice	Miss Watson.
Maid	Miss Bramah.

The profit realised was £35.

Mr. John Steeple was, this year, compelled by his professional engagements to resign the office of Stage Manager, which he had held, and the duties of which he had assiduously discharged, since the formation of the Society. At a Dinner given to him on September 6, 1861, the Committee presented Mr. Steeple with the following address as a mark of their admiration and esteem:—

THE COMMITTEE OF THE
BIRMINGHAM AMATEUR DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION
TO MR. JOHN STEEPLE.

Dear Sir,

Called by other duties, you seek release from the offices you have so long and successfully filled in our Association.

We receive your resignation with mingled feelings of pain and satisfaction; pain from the loss of a Stage Manager at once so able and so courteous, and of satisfaction from the assurance of your professional prosperity: we trust that all your future efforts may thrive with equal honour to yourself and benefit to others. We ask another opportunity to write our names in kindly fellowship with yours; parting words, tho' few, are apt to be the dearest and sincerest; we have only such words to say as recall the memory of, and thank you for the pleasant hours gone by. For ourselves, for the acting members, and on behalf of the whole Association, we offer you our ardent good wishes. Accept our warmest thanks, the heartiness of which is only surpassed by the largeness of the services you have rendered to us and to the Society; our regrets at parting are equalled only by the pleasure we have had in association with you.

H. B. S. THOMPSON.	WILLIAM SUNDERLAND.
W. M. WILLIAMS.	J. A. LANGFORD.
THOMAS ANDERTON.	THOMAS BRAGG.
SAMUEL WILLIAM HILL.	H. J. WHITLOCK.
HOWARD THOMAS.	D. J. O'NEIL.

September 13th, 1862.

Mr. H. B. S. Thompson was elected Mr. Steeple's successor as Stage Manager. He was also the Treasurer, and for several years he devoted much time and ability in the reunion of the Society. On April 17, 1862, a drama in three acts, by J. A. Langford, entitled "Love Triumphant," and a farce in one act, "The Leg of Pork," by Mr. J. Herbert Stack, were produced. Both pieces succeeded in winning the "golden opinion" of this friendly audience.

On January 15, two original pieces were performed: "La Débutante," a drama in three acts, by Mr. C. W. Williams, and "Who's my Rival?" a commedietta, by Miss Keating. On May 2, in the same year, a public performance was given at the Theatre Royal, for the benefit of the Queen's Hospital. The pieces performed were "On the Sly;" Mr. Williams's drama, "La Débutante;" and "Used Up." The drama was preceded by a new overture, composed for the occasion, by Mr. Thomas Anderton, Mus. Bac.

On March 20, 1867, an original drama in three acts, by Mr. C. W. Williams, was produced, founded on Miss Braddon's story of "The Captain of the Vulture," and entitled "The Two Dukes." "The Two Dukes" was afterwards performed at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Miss Neilson taking the heroine *Milicent*.

On April 9, 1868, a public performance was given at the Theatre Royal, in aid of the fund for purchasing books for the Shakspere Memorial Library. The play was Sheridan's brilliant comedy "The School for Scandal," and the amateurs were strengthened by two such famous performers as Mr. Sothern and Miss Madge Robertson. The cast of the comedy was:—

Sir Peter Teazle	T. H. Gem.
Sir Oliver Surface	J. A. Langford.
Sir Benjamin Backbite	H. Hawkes.
Joseph Surface	C. W. Williams.
Charles Surface	E. A. Sothern.
Moses	R. Thomas.
Careless	W. J. Page.
Sir Harry Bumper	W. G. Owen.
Crabtree	Tuke.
Rowley	J. M. French.
Trip	G. B. Cull.
Snake	G. G. Pole.
Lady Teazle	Miss Madge Robertson.
Lady Sneerwell	Miss C. Burchell.
Mrs. Candour	Miss Tamor Lavis.
Maria	Miss Louise Claire.

The farce was "A Thumping Legacy," with the following cast:—

Jerry Ominous	W. G. Owen
Geronimo	F. Jones
Brigadier	G. G. Pole
Leoni	W. J. Page
Bambogetti	J. M. French
Rosetta	Miss Ellen Lenard

Both Mr. Sothern and Miss Robertson were warm in their praises of their *compeers*, and declared that they had never seen an amateur performance so completely and artistically carried out in all its details. It was not, however, a pecuniary success, only a few pounds being realized for the admirable and appropriate object for which the performance was given.

The Society gave another public performance at the Theatre Royal, on May 26, 1869, in aid of the funds of the Birmingham Homœopathic Hospital. The pieces performed were the "Honeymoon," and "A Terrible Secret." The following was the cast:—

THE HONEYMOON.

The Duke of Aranza	C. W. Williams.
Count Montalban	G. G. Pole.
Captain Rolando	R. Thomas.
Signor Balthazar	E. W. Genever.
Campillo	H. Thompson.
Jacques	W. Thomas.
Lopez, a Rustic	J. B. Cull.
Lampedo, an Apothecary	T. Hollinsworth.
Juliana, Volante, Zamora (Daughters of Balthazar)	Miss Gergina Robertson. / Miss Vining. / Miss Pereira.
Hoastess	Mrs. C. Humphries.

A TERRIBLE SECRET.

Mr. Henpecker	W. Thomas.
Bob Loosefish	E. W. Genever.
Mrs. Henpecker	Mrs. C. Humphries.
Tilly	Miss Vining.

The amount paid to the Hospital was £30 6s. 3d.

On January 14, 1870, the members played at the Royal Hotel for the benefit of the widow and orphans of Mr. E. W. Genever. The pieces were, "She Stoops to Conquer" and

"My Turn next." The performance was very successful for the charitable purpose for which it was given.

In 1869, Mr. Robert Pollock, jun., was elected honorary secretary, an office which he still retains, to the success of the Association, and the satisfaction of its members.

For the public services which it has rendered, and the original dramas and farces which it has produced this Association merits high praise; and in the words of one of its friendly critics, "it may claim to be considered one of the educational institutions of the town, as well as a society for the rational amusement of its members."

Chapter III. 1861—1871.

PROGRESS OF THE TOWN.

The progress made in the town in 1861, is shown by the Borough Surveyor's returns. In that year 811 new houses were erected, 2 churches, 9 manufactories, 20 warehouses, 29 workshops, and one school.

In 1862, 1,168 new houses were erected, 1 chapel and 4 schools. There were also added to the town 61 warehouses and workshops, 17 stables, and 21 miscellaneous buildings.

The statue to the memory of Joseph Sturge was unveiled on June 4, 1862, in the presence of from 10,000 to 12,000 persons. The ceremony was performed by Mr. W. Middlemore, Chairman of the Memorial Committee, who read the document which conveyed the statue from the donors to the

Mayor and Corporation of the Borough. The Mayor acknowledged the gift, and Messrs. Bright and Scholefield (the Borough Members) delivered addresses on the occasion. The statue is placed at the junction of the streets at the Five Ways, Edgbaston, and was the last work executed by the sculptor, Mr. J. Thomas. It is a very fine monument.

"On the base, in front and back, project bold tazza-shaped basins, from the inside of which pretty jets of water rise. On each side, upon pedestals, are seated life-size figures typical of the leading characteristics of Mr. Sturge: Charity is nursing a child in her arms, and at the same time is giving food to a little negro. On the other pedestal is Peace with her dove, a lamb and other emblems. Under these figures are simple drinking fountains, the water issuing from lilies and falling into marble shells. The pedestal on which the statue stands rises up between the two subordinate figures. Mr. Sturge is represented with one hand on the Bible, and the other is extended towards the figure of Peace. The subordinate figures are executed in Portland stone, and the statue in Sicilian marble. The height of the group is twenty-four feet, and the cost was £1,000."

Some of the gentlemen present at the ceremony took luncheon together, and Mr. Bright, M.P., Mr. Scholefield, M.P., Mr. George Dawson, Mr. R. W. Dale, the Revs. G. Pettitt, J. T. Burt, H. Richard, and Dr. Badham, spoke to various resolutions, each speaker bearing tribute to the noble virtues of Mr. Sturge. In the evening a meeting of the leaders and supporters of the Temperance Cause was held in the Temperance Hall, under the presidency of the Mayor; and several addresses were delivered.

In 1863, 1,501 new houses were built, 1 church, 4 chapels, 75 warehouses and workshops, 23 stables, and 20 miscellaneous buildings.

The new Birmingham Exchange was opened on January 2, 1865, by Mr. H. Wiggin, the Mayor. At the luncheon, which took place after the ceremony, Messrs. W. Scholefield, J. Bright, and C. B. Adderley delivered speeches; and the Rev. D. Miller, Alderman T. Lloyd, Messrs. G. Dixon, S. S. Lloyd, Davenport Bromley, George Dawson, E. Lander, J. S. Wright, J. D. Goodman, T. C. S. Kynnersley and others took part in the proceedings.

The plan of the building comprises a large room used as an Exchange Room, a room for the meetings of the Chamber of Commerce, Telegraph Offices, Assembly and Dining Rooms. The two principal fronts are arranged for retail shops. The building has a frontage of 180 feet to Stephenson Place, and one to New Street of about 63 feet. The principal front consists of arcades of arched windows, four stories in height. The ground-floor being arranged for retail shops, has to each a triple arcade of flat ogee arches, supported by iron columns, one of the openings serving as as a doorway ; above these is a mezzanine story, containing triplets of plain two-centered arches. The first-floor windows are also divided in triplets ranging over the shops ; below, each window has columns with carved capitals, and a carved impost continued as a string-course all round the principal fronts. The second-floor windows are simply an arcade of trefoiled arched openings, with a carved impost; the third floor consists of an arcade of unequal Gothic windows to the wings, and Dormer windows to the remainder ; above is the cornice, and a high pitched roof, slated in parti-colours. In the centre of the principal elevation to Stephenson-place is the entrance to the Exchange under a tower carried up to a height of 100 feet, or thereabouts. The entrance is the only portion of the Exchange (proper) that appears in the principal elevation. As to the interior, two rows of small iron clustered columns, with wrought iron arches and foliated spandrils, run the length of the Exchange, (which is 70 feet by 40 feet and 23 feet high), and carry the beams of the assembly-room floor. A committee room is provided adjoining the Exchange, with a private entrance from the lobby. The Chamber of Commerce is in close proximity to the Exchange, and situate on the ground-floor ; there is a small ante-room adjoining. The refreshment or supper room is entered from the assembly-room, and also from the lobby, which communicates with the corridor. It is 46 feet long, and 20 feet wide. The dining room, which is immediately below the refreshment room, may also be used for the purpose of a refreshment or supper room, upon the occasion of balls. It is on the mezzanine floor, and the same size as the refreshment room. In connection with this department are spacious coffee and smoking rooms. The kitchen and other culinary offices are arranged on the upper floor over the dining rooms. A residence for the superintendent of this department is provided on the upper floor. A room, 38 feet long by 32 feet 6 inches and 21 feet high, with dressing and ante-rooms attached for the convenience of masonic meetings, is on the the third floor, fronting New Street. It is approached by the assembly-room stairs. The hall-keeper's residence is in the central tower. The remaining space for disposal, after arranging the principal rooms on the various floors, is divided into offices of convenient sizes and suites. The floor of the Exchange and entrance are laid with encaustic and plain tiles, and bands of stone upon brick arches.

The number of new houses built in Birmingham in 1864, was 1,273; of other buildings there were, 1 church, 3 chapels, 2 schools, 10 manufactories, 48 warehouses and shops, 20 stables, and 18 miscellaneous.

In 1865, the addition made to the buildings were, 1,056 houses, 2 chapels, 5 schools, 15 manufactories, 54 warehouses, &c., 18 stables, and 5 miscellaneous.

In 1866, the number of new houses erected in the borough was 1,289; and of other new buildings, 1 church, 1 chapel, 2 schools, 11 manufactories, 23 warehouses, 13 stables, and 35 miscellaneous.

In 1867, the number of new buildings added to the town was as follows:—1,221 houses, 32 shops, 6 churches, 5 chapels, 4 schools, 20 warehouses, 10 manufactories, 33 workshops, 1 flour mill, 1 bank, 1 masonic hall, 1 club house, 5 bakehouses, 1 slaughter-house, 4 sheds, 25 stables, and 8 coach-houses.

In 1868, the new buildings added to the town were:—Dwelling houses, 1,363; churches, 2; chapel, 1; schools, 5; manufactories, 5; warehouses and shops, 35; stables, 30; miscellaneous, 61; alterations and additions, 43. The term "miscellaneous" includes 27 workshops, 1 flour mill, 1 bank (Midland, New Street), 4 sets of offices, 1 hospital (children's out-patient department), 1 weighing machine, 10 bakehouses, 2 slaughter-houses, and 14 coach-houses. In 1869, plans of 1,597 houses, 6 shops, 1 church, 1 chapel, 3 schools, 2 sets of offices, 19 warehouses, 9 manufactories, 33 workshops and foundries, 1 malthouse, 5 bakehouses, and 15 stables were registered.

The growth of the town during the last seventy years will be best illustrated by the population returns for that period. The increase has been very rapid, and of course, the increase in the number of houses has kept pace with that of the population.

PUBLIC LIFE AND EVENTS.

THE decade beginning in 1861, opened with a work of charity. The distress at Coventry, consequent upon the extreme depression of trade in that ancient city, excited the general sympathy of the country, and Birmingham with its usual activity, whenever suffering has to be alleviated, immediately held a meeting and commenced a subscription in aid of the poor. On January 4, the Mayor remitted £1,000 to Coventry, and at the meeting held in that city on the 2nd, Lord Leigh announced that the general fund had already reached £16,500, and the relief granted during the week amounted to £1,209.

At the same time great distress prevailed in Birmingham; and a fund for the relief of our own towns-people was also raised, to which nearly £1,000 was subscribed.

This was a year of distress and suffering, but happily a year of corresponding benevolence. Scarcely had the poor of Coventry been relieved, than the news of the terrible famine in the north-west of India reached England. On April 8, a meeting, convened by the Mayor, was held, at which a subscription was commenced in aid of the far-off sufferers, and on the 13th, £930 was announced as having been subscribed. The total amount raised in Birmingham was £2,151 17s. 2d.

The first migratory meeting of the North of England Institute of Mining Engineers, was held at Birmingham, on July 16, 1861, under the presidency of Mr. Nicholas Ward, President of the Association. On the first day the following papers were read: on Underground Engines, by Mr. S. Bailey; on the Northern Coal Field, showing the facilities of transit

possessed by the northern coal owners, and the benefits that accrue from the proposed improvements in the river Tyne, by Mr. Thomas Young Hale; on Safety Cages, by Mr. Robert Aytoun; and two papers on the Somerset Coal Field, by Mr. Cossham and Mr. G. Greenwell. At a meeting on the 17th, Mr. J. T. Woodhouse read a paper on The Progress of Mining Engineering, in the Derbyshire Coal Field, with a short account of Working Coal by Long Wall; Mr. Stuart Smith read a paper on The Mining and Working of the Cinderhill Colliery, near Nottingham; Mr. George Fowler, on The Working of the Main Seam at Moira, particularly with reference to Spontaneous Combustion; Messrs. J. J. Atkinson and J. Daglish read papers on The Friction of Anemometers; Mr. Henry Johnson, one on Workings in the Thick Coal; and Mr. P. S. Read, one on Boring through Quick Sand. Several other papers were left over till the next meeting. The members visited a large number of manufactories on the first day of the meetings; and on the 18th, they visited the principal coal mines and iron works in South Staffordshire.

The census was taken this year on the 8th of April, and the returns for the Borough of Birmingham showed the following results as compared with the census of 1851:—

	1851.	1861.
Birmingham Parish . . .	173,951	212,510
Edgbaston	9,269	12,898
Aston (within the Borough) . .	49,621	70,547
Total of the Borough . .	232,841	295,955

On July 30, the foundation stone of the new Congregational Chapel for Moseley, was laid by Mr. R. W. Dale.

On August 12, the foundation stones of the Episcopal Chapel and the Dissenters' Chapel, at the new Borough Cemetery, at Witton, were laid by the Mayor, Mr. Arthur Ryland.

In the last week in September the Music Hall, in Broad Street, which had cost upwards of £12,000, was sold for £3,400.

On the 10th of October, Mr. Joseph Allday died, at his residence in Warstone Lane, in his 63rd year. For many years the deceased had taken an active part in the municipal and the parochial affairs of the town. His first introduction to public business took place in 1848, when he was appointed Churchwarden, and by virtue of that office, took his seat at the Board of Guardians and the Board of Overseers. In the same year he took a prominent part in the formation of the Birmingham Ratepayers' Protection Society, and was a member of several deputations to Lord Morpeth and Sir George Grey on the subject of abuses in the Local Courts. In the following year he was returned to the Town Council for St. Mary's Ward, and in the course of three or four years was elected Chairman of the Board of Guardians. During the two years he retained that seat he was elected an Alderman of the borough, which office he held till he resigned it in 1859. Having identified himself with the "economist" party in the Council, he became their leader on his appointment to the chairmanship of the Finance Committee in 1856, and persistently advocated their cause whenever an opportunity offered itself, even after he had retired from public life. He also greatly distinguished himself in the enquiry which took place into the cruelties of the Borough Gaol.

The Congregational Mission of England and Wales held its Annual Conference this year in Birmingham. It was opened on October 7, with a service in the Congregational Chapel, Francis Street, Edgbaston; and the business meetings commenced in Ebenezer Chapel, Steelhouse Lane, on the 8th. There was a very large attendance of delegates from various parts of the country, and the Rev. J. G. Miall, of Bradford, presided, and delivered the opening address. The Conference was continued on the 9th and 10th, and in the evening of the 9th, a meeting was held in the Town Hall, under the presidency of Mr. T. Baines, M.P. for Bolton.

On November 9, Mr. Alderman H. Manton was elected Mayor for the ensuing year.

The Annual Cattle and Poultry Show was held on December 2, 3, 4, and 5; the total number of visitors was 58,999; and the total amount of receipts, £1,341 19s. 7d. To the Dog Show the total number of visitors was 17,047; receipts for admissions, £792, 11s. 0d.; for sales, £154 13s. 0d.

On Saturday December 14, his Royal Highness the Prince Consort died, at the comparatively early age of 42. His death was the cause of deep and general sorrow, in which the people of Birmingham most sincerely participated. The day of the funeral, December 23, was observed here with unusual solemnity. The scene presented is thus described in the *Journal* of the 28th :—

If externals may be taken as a guage of those hidden feelings which are now and then awakened in the public breast by some great and momentous national calamity, the solemnity of grief was on Monday displayed in this town in all reality and in the deepest sincerity. Never, in our remembrance, was there such an universal demonstration of sorrow as that which was witnessed yesterday; and it showed that whilst lamenting the death of the late Prince Consort, as the husband of our gracious Queen, and as the father of a happy and united family, the people of this country are deeply imbued with a sense of the pure and exalted virtues of which the life of his late Royal Highness was so practical and striking an example. It seemed, indeed, as though all persons felt that in the death of his Royal Highness they had sustained an individual loss, and one, too, which was irreparable, and from the highest to the lowest the manifestations of mourning were general and unmistakeable. From an early hour in the morning the deep-toned bells of the various churches in the town tolled forth a melancholy "minuting," and kept reviving ever freshly in the mind the depressing recollection of the great deprivation which the Queen and the country have sustained. The aspect of the town as the forenoon advanced was singular in the feeling of sadness and gloom which it excited. Almost without exception in the centre of the town, and Edgbaston, Hockley, Aston, and other suburbs, the blinds were drawn down in the windows of the residents, and scarcely a shop was open after the hour of eleven. A Union Jack floated, at half-mast high, here and there, at the summit of buildings in the town, and mourning garments were generally worn. So universal were these emblems of sorrow, that even the poorest clad women wore some humble expressive "bit of black." There was a stillness in the crowded thoroughfares, which seemed to whisper of death, and people spoke to each other with "bated breath," so irresistible was the influence of the sad event. As had been previously arranged, and as was the

rule throughout the district in which this journal circulates, and doubtless everywhere throughout the length and breadth of the land, special church and chapel services were held in the morning, afternoon, and evening, and they were attended by densely crowded congregations. The interiors of the sacred edifices were draped with black, and heart-felt emotion was visible in every countenance.

A public service was held in the Town Hall, at which Mr. George Dawson delivered a funeral éloge on the memory of the deceased Prince. The Town Council and many of the public societies of the town adopted addresses of condolence to the Queen on her sorrowful bereavement.

The Church of the Messiah, Broad Street, was opened on January 1, 1862; the Rev. S. Bache conducting the service, and the Rev. T. Madge, of London, preaching the sermon.

A meeting was held on January 16, at which it was resolved:—

That the inhabitants of Birmingham desire to record permanently their deep sense of the irreparable loss sustained by the nation in the death of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, and their high estimate of his many excellencies and great public services, by a local memorial.

The Mayor, Mr. H. Manton, presided, and the Rev Dr. Miller, Alderman Ryland, Alderman Lloyd, the Rev. C. Vince, Mr. T. B. Wright, the Rev. R. D. Wilson, John Jaffray, Sir John Ratcliff, R. Wright, T. P. Salt, and the Hon. and Rev. G. M. Yorke, took part in the proceedings. In a comparatively short time upwards of £2,000 were subscribed for the purpose of executing a statue in memory of the Prince.

On March 14, a meeting was held, with Lord Calthorpe in the chair, at which a branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was formed in Birmingham and the district. Lord Calthorpe was elected the first President, Sir F. Goodrick, Bart., Sir F. E. Scott, Bart., W. Scholefield, M.P., and R. Spooner, M.P., the first Vice-Presidents; and T. A. Attwood, Treasurer.

Prince Oscar of Sweden came to Birmingham on May 8, and on the following day he visited several of the leading manufactories. Prince Arthur passed through the town on the 22nd of the month.

On the 27th of May, the New Meeting Chapel, Moor Street, which was the scene of the ministrations of Dr. Priestley, was opened as a Roman Catholic place of worship, dedicated to St. Michael.

The Japanese Ambassadors were in Birmingham on May 29 and 30, and during their brief stay, visited several of our principal manufactories.

On June the 21st a terrible explosion took place at Messrs. Walker's Percussion Cap Manufactory, Graham Street. Nine persons were killed, and thirty-three others more or less seriously injured. A subscription was immediately commenced for the relief of the sufferers, and an amount was raised more than sufficient to meet all the claims made upon it.

August the 24th was the two-hundredth anniversary of the ejectment of two thousand ministers of the Church of England in 1662, in consequence of their refusal to subscribe to the Act of Uniformity. The day was celebrated in Birmingham, as in all parts of England, by the dissenting bodies. In all the dissenting chapels, Independents, Baptists, and Unitarians, special services were held. The Old Meeting House had special historical connection with the cause of the celebration, for it was founded by three of the ejected clergymen.

On September 3, the Rev. Charles Evans, M.A., was elected Head Master of King Edward the Sixth's School in place of the Rev. Dr. Gifford, resigned.

This year witnessed the terrible distres in the cotton districts, consequent upon the American War. The Mayor convened a Town's Meeting for the purpose of joining in a vigorous effort to raise a fund to assist the poor and needy in Lancashire. The meeting was held in the Theatre of the Midland Institute, on September 9; Messrs. George Dixon, G. F. Muntz, Alderman Phillips, Sampson Hanbury, Henry Bishop, Peter Hollins, and the Revs. James Eagles, R. W. Dale, and C. Owen, took part in the proceedings. It was resolved that a subscription list be opened, and a committee was elected

to collect and transmit the money to the Central Committee. The Mayor was appointed Treasurer, and Mr. George Dixon Hon. Secretary. Nearly £2,000 was subscribed in the room. The total amount raised for this object, in Birmingham, was £15,115 4s. 10d., of which the working men subscribed £3,411 19s. 8d.

On August 29, Garibaldi was wounded and taken prisoner at Aspromonte, and in Birmingham a Town's Meeting was held on September 17, for the purpose of expressing sympathy with the General, and for memorializing the Government to use its influence for the withdrawal of the French troops from Rome. The Mayor presided, and the Hall was densely crowded. Mr. Alderman Ryland moved:—

That this meeting desires to express its heartfelt sympathy with General Garibaldi in his present captivity and suffering, its admiration of his pure and self-sacrificing patriotism, and its earnest hope that he may live to see all Italy united and independent.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. J. D. Goodman, and supported by Mr. J. A. Langford and Mr. F. Wootton, one of the English Garibaldian Volunteers.

Mr. Alderman Hawkes moved the memorial to the English Government, which was seconded by Mr. William Harris, and supported by Mr. W. M. Williams and Mr. C. R. Kennedy. Mr. J. W. Oliver announced that a subscription list had been opened towards paying the expenses of sending Professor Partridge, of the King's College, London, to attend the wounded General.

On the 15th of September, Mr. Brooke Evans, J.P., died at his residence at Edgbaston, aged 65 years. The following interesting biographical sketch was supplied by a friend of Mr. Evans:—

The object of this memoir was born in Birmingham in 1797, and received his primary education at the school of Mr. Hill (the father of our learned Recorder), which at that time was conducted at Singer's Hill, prior to its removal to Edgbaston. Subsequently he was placed at Aldridge under the care of Mr. Lomax. His education completed, he embarked at an early age for the United States, in which country he spent several years, engaged in trading pursuits, and more particularly

in connection with the manufacture of fire-arms. He returned to England in 1826, and shortly afterwards proceeded to Guatemala as a merchant. His stay, however, in so unhealthy a climate, was not of long duration, as at the expiration of a twelvemonth he came back to his native country, and settled at Stratford-on-Avon, where he carried on business for some years. The turning point in his commercial career had now arrived. In 1835 he entered into partnership with his intimate friend Mr. Charles Askin, of this town, and, in conjunction with him, founded an important trade in the manufacture of nickel and cobalt, which resulted in establishing for the firm of Evans and Askin an European reputation. Nickel being the basis of German silver, of which metal numerous articles of the day are made, an important and increasing manufacturing trade speedily grew up. The electro-plating process was subsequently introduced, and soon created a further demand for the raw material, giving a stimulus to the operations so successfully commenced. And this was supplemented through the fortunate discovery by Mr. Askin, of a means of separating cobalt from nickel, on a large scale and in an economical manner, so as to render the oxide, hitherto deemed a waste product, a valuable preparation for use in pottery and glass making. The scientific knowledge of Mr. Askin was ably seconded by his partner. Mr. Evans searched Europe for the minerals upon which the skill of the chemist was to be exercised. In Saxony, Hungary and Norway especially he succeeded in discovering important deposits of nickel ores, and founded extensive works in connexion with the mines. Some of these undertakings were carried on under circumstances of great difficulty, and their favourable results are to be attributed to the resolution and spirit in which they were not only commenced, but carried out. Prosperity attended these operations, and in a few years the energetic proprietors reaped the fruits of their labours, and became wealthy men. On the death of Mr. Askin, in 1847, the management of the business devolved upon Mr. Evans, in which he continued up to the time of his death. But Mr. Evans's enterprise was not alone limited to the mineral requirements of his own immediate trade. During his explorations in Norway he discovered also valuable deposits of "apatite," or mineral phosphate of lime, the importations of which have materially tended to enrich the impoverished lands of this country. His attention was likewise diverted to other interesting enquiries in connection with commercial pursuits, and it may be said without affectation that the whole tenor of his life was marked by an earnestness of mind and purpose, which he brought to bear on everything in which he was engaged, and which, combined, as it invariably was, with a calm self-reliance and prudent judgment, entitles him to rank as a remarkable man, and one of superior intellect.

In private life Mr. Brooke Evans shone conspicuously. An upright and conscientious person, a sincere and staunch friend, a trusty and

thoughtful counsellor, a considerate and generous ally, his character was singularly free from the ordinary selfishness of human nature. As a companion he excelled ; well informed and deeply read, he could converse on most scientific subjects in a manner both interesting and instructive, evidencing thereby the pains he had taken to acquire sound and useful knowledge. His personal experience, too, in his frequent travelling excursions on the Continent, lent a peculiar charm to his conversation, which was varied and agreeable. His hospitality was unpresuming but unbounded, and, although unknown to the general public, his charity was large, and invariably well bestowed. His loss will long be felt by those who knew him intimately, and his memory will be endeared to them from a recollection of those sterling qualities which constitute the distinguishing characteristics of a true-hearted friend and an upright honourable man.

On November 9, Mr. C. Sturge was elected Mayor for the ensuing year.

The Cattle, Poultry, and Dog Shows were held on December 2, 3, 4, and 5. The number of persons visiting the Cattle and Poultry Shows, was 60,961, and the total receipts for admission were £1,257 5s. 6d. ; the sales of poultry, £642 8s. ; and of stock, £1,452 0s. 6d. To the Dog Show the total admissions were 29,000, and the receipts £1,302 17s. 10d. ; the amount from sales was £368 11s. 6d.

On December 28, Mr. Joseph Frederick Ledsam died in his 72nd year. Until a short time before his decease Mr. Ledsam occupied a prominent position amongst the leading inhabitants of the town, but his failing health compelled him to retire from public life.

He was a Magistrate for the three counties of Warwick, Worcester, and Stafford, and a Deputy Lieutenant of the first named county. He had also filled the important position of High Sheriff of Worcestershire. Mr. Ledsam was, however, best known from his long and intimate connection with the General Hospital, especially as regards the great Musical Festival, held every three years for the benefit of the charity. For many years Mr. Ledsam filled the office of Chairman of the Festival Committee, and only resigned it when his health finally gave way. His remarkable courtesy and kindness of manner, combined with his thorough knowledge of business and a large acquaintance with the musical world, enabled him to render invaluable services as the recognised working head of the Festival Committee ; and his enforced retirement from that

position was deeply felt and sincerely regretted. Mr. Ledsam was also, for many years, an active and esteemed member of the Government Board of the Free Grammar School, and was also connected, either in an honorary or a working capacity, with many other educational, charitable and religious institutions or societies. He was likewise well-known as having a prominent share in the management of several important commercial undertakings, amongst which may be mentioned the Birmingham Banking Company, the Birmingham and Staffordshire Gas Company, and last, but by no means least, the London and North Western Railway Company, in connection with which, for several years, he performed the laborious duties of Deputy Chairman of the Directors. By those who knew him personally, Mr. Ledsam was highly esteemed, both as a public man and in the relationship of his private life ; and the regard generally entertained for him was abundantly justified by his amiable character and his uniformly courteous and obliging disposition.

At the anniversary dinner of the Chamber of Commerce, held on January 16, 1863, Mr. George Dixon, President, in the chair, the Members for the borough, Messrs. Scholefield and Bright, attended, and addressed the meeting. The speech of Mr. Bright was principally confined to the subject of International Law and Foreign Policy.

On the 8th of February, 1862, was announced the establishment of a Limited Joint-Stock Company, with a capital of £20,000, for erecting a set of Exchange Buildings, on a piece of land fronting the railway station, in New Street. The plan designed by Mr. Holmes was selected, and the tender of Messrs. Branson and Murray for building it at a cost of £19,300, accepted. The foundation stone was laid by Mr. H. Van Wart, on January 21, 1863.

It is rarely that Birmingham people have displayed more hearty rejoicings than on the occasion of the marriage of the Prince of Wales with the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, on March 10. The chronicle of the day informs us that—

Whilst doubting whether any town in England celebrated the marriage of the Prince of Wales under more adverse influences than Birmingham did, we are quite sure that none—not even London itself—out-did it in the enthusiasm and universality of its rejoicings. Though the Town Council, by taking the matter into their own hands at first, and refusing to have anything to do with it afterwards, delayed for a considerable time the preparations of the townsfolk, those preparations

were taken in hand determinedly and carried out with success. It is true we had no general town's demonstration ; but in lieu thereof we had decorations and processions, and feasts, and illuminations all over Birmingham, making up such an aggregate of rejoicing as will be remembered for years and years to come. All business, public and otherwise, was suspended, all classes of all ages, from the millionaire to the pauper, from the old couple of eighty to the little child at school, had an opportunity of making merry to their hearts' content. As if sympathizing with the general joy, the weather too, was fine. Before the event it was cold, windy, and wet ; since the event it has been cold, windy, and wet ; but during the whole of Tuesday it was as fine as the most sanguine could have desired. A dense morning fog cleared off early, and each advancing hour brought with it more sunlight, until in the afternoon, the sky was bright and clear, and the town flooded with the mellow glow of a bright spring day. The evening, too, was calm and fine—admirably adapted in every way to ensure the success of the illuminations ; so that the preparations being equal to the occasion, as they were, there was no drawback upon the festivities of the day.

The principal streets were decorated, and were literally crammed with holiday-keeping crowds. Flags and banners floated gaily from numerous windows; and mottoes, expressive of the people's loyalty and good wishes for the royal pair, were displayed at many private houses, and all the public offices. The Town Council and the heads of the Corporate department, the members of the Board of Guardians, the Odd Fellows, the students of the Worcester Diocesan Training College, and members of other bodies, celebrated the event by dining together. The Freemasons gave a ball, and the Rifle Corps had a grand field day at Calthorpe Park. Special services were held at St Martin's Church and at Carr's Lane Chapel. All the places of public amusement were open, theatres and music halls, and the Festival Choral Society gave a concert at the Town Hall. There was a special fête at Aston Park, at which was performed an original Serenade written by Mr. J. A. Langford, and set to music by Mr. A. J. Sutton. The poor were feasted, and festivities were held at every school in the town. The illuminations were of a more splendid character than had probably ever been seen before in Birmingham. The Town Hall, King Edward the Sixth's School, and other public places, houses, workshops, and

manufactories were brilliant with gas in all kinds of forms and devices. The *chef-d'œuvre*, however, of the illuminations was that of St. Phillip's Church.

The arcade of the church, the tower, dome and cupola were lighted up upon all their architectural lines, and the whole was surmounted by an immense cross of jets, enclosed in ruby-coloured glass. Independently of the erection of the scaffolding, which occupied forty men three days, the preparation of the tubing and the fixing of it was a gigantic achievement in gas fitting. Over 3,000 feet of tubing, varying in diameter from three-quarters of an inch to three inches, were used, and to join it no less than 2,000 "fittings"—joints, sockets, &c.—were required. When lighted up, the illumination displayed 10,000 distinct jets of gas, each issuing from a large batswing burner. And then, in order that there might be no lack of pressure in the supply of gas, the pipes were parcelled out into six divisions, entirely unconnected with each other, and each of these divisions were supplied with gas through an independent service pipe attached, not to the ordinary street mains, but to a six-inch and a three-inch main, which drew their supply from a ten-inch main laid down to supply the gasometer in Gas Street, and used for no other purpose. Something like 70,000 feet of gas per hour was consumed, and the effect, as may well be imagined, was brilliant in the extreme. Every architectural outline in the quaint building glowed with a brilliant beadwork of lights, which now sunk with the passing wind to the prettiest of little blue jets, that looked like glowworms in a hedge-row, and again blazed out with a full proud brilliancy that, while throwing a strange glare on the upturned faces of the multitude below, lighted up the houses all around, and flung grotesque lights and shadows through the trees upon the monuments and graves beneath them in the churchyard. And, as if the illumination of the tower was not sufficient, coloured fires were burnt at intervals, and long rows of variegated lamps were hung in festoons along the railings running through the churchyard, whilst others nestled in the wreaths of evergreens that spanned the gateways.

A large number of manufacturers entertained their workpeople, and the marriage was celebrated in some way by every class in the town; the inmates of the Workhouse, to the number of 1,700, had an unusually excellent dinner in honour of the event.

The rejoicings in Birmingham, however, did not end in bell-ringing, illuminations, dinings, and festivities. A most appropriate wedding present was provided in a splendid *répoussé* table, manufactured by Messrs. Elkington,

and Co., which was presented to the Princess of Wales, at Marlborough House, on April 30. The deputation consisted of the Mayor (Mr. C. Sturge), the Rev. C. Evans, Messrs. Alderman Hodgson, John Jaffray, H. Wiggin, F. Elkington, G. F. Muntz, W. C. Aitken, C. Ratcliff, R. Peyton, T. Kenrick, and S. Thornton. In reply to the address, the Princess declared that she was especially gratified with the present.

On March 17, a preliminary meeting was held for the purpose of affording the town an opportunity to express its opinion on the state of things in Poland. The meeting was entirely unanimous as to the desirability of holding a town's meeting on the subject; and a requisition to the Mayor was adopted, asking him to convene a meeting for the purpose of considering the duty of England towards Poland in her present struggle with Russia. A sub-committee, consisting of the Rev. C. Vince, Messrs. S. Timmins, J. T. Bunce, W. Harris, and J. A. Langford, was appointed to draw up resolutions, and to arrange for the meeting. Mr. J. S. Wright was requested to act as treasurer, and Mr. Langford as honorary secretary to the committee. The meeting was held at the Town Hall, on the 26, the Mayor in the chair. Mr. Alderman T. Lloyd moved, and Mr. S. Timmins seconded, the following resolution, which passed unanimously:—

That this meeting deeply sympathizes with the people of Poland in the struggle to which they have been driven by the protracted and systematic cruelty and bad faith of the Russian Government.

The second resolution was moved by the Rev. Dr. Miller, seconded by Mr. J. A. Langford, and supported by Rev. R. D. Wilson and Count Zamoyski, and although two amendments were moved, was carried by a large majority. It was—

That, considering the violation of the obligations created by the Treaty of 1815, this meeting affirms it to be the duty of her Majesty's Government to take such measures as may lead to securing and the maintenance of the national existence of Poland.

Mr. George Dixon moved that a petition in accordance with the resolution be presented to both House of Parliament; that to the Lords, by Lord Shaftesbury; and that to the

Commons, by Mr. Scholefield. Mr. W. Harris seconded the resolution, which was carried. Mr. J. S. Wright moved that a subscription be opened, and transmitted to the Central Committee, for the relief of the wounded and distressed Poles. Mr. J. Pickering seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. Thomas Lloyd being desirous of establishing a cheap dining hall, in Birmingham, on the plan so successfully carried out in Glasgow by Mr. Corbett, made the necessary inquiries as to their management, and on the 8th of June, in conjunction with Mr. E. Gem, opened the first hall in Slaney Street. Previously to the opening of this hall, a number of gentlemen met on May 8, and determined to form a Limited Liability Company for the purpose of establishing similar halls in various parts of the town. The capital was fixed at £5,000, to be raised in £20 shares. Unfortunately Messrs. Lloyd and Gem consented to associate themselves with the company, and handed over their hall to its management. In the end the company entirely failed in its object; but the record of this failure belongs to the year in which it occurred.

On Monday, July 20th, without noise or ostentation—with no pomp or inaugural ceremony—the first Working Men's Club in Birmingham opened its doors for members. The following is the history of this undertaking:—

There was in London a body called "The Working Men's Club and Institute Union," of which the indefatigable Rev. Henry Solly was the secretary. Through the application of this gentleman, Mr. Arthur Ryland and Mr. J. A. Langford consented to act as corresponding members to the Union in Birmingham, and generally to assist the movement. In consequence, when the time was considered ripe to stir in the matter, the following circular was issued to a number of gentlemen known to be interested in the subject.:—

January, 1863.

Dear Sir,

It is proposed to hold a preliminary meeting, at the Alma Chambers, 32, Paradise Street, at three o'clock, Monday, January 19, 1863, to con-

sider the propriety of promoting the formation of Working Men's Clubs in this town, at which your attendance is particularly requested. The Rev. Henry Solly, of London, will attend, and explain the objects and proceedings of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union, established in London, of which he is the secretary.

We are, dear sir,
Yours obediently,
ARTHUR RYLAND,
J. A. LANGFORD,
Corresponding Members of the Union.

A large number of gentlemen responded to this call, and a Committee was formed at the meeting for the purpose of introducing such institutions in Birmingham; Mr. Ryland was requested to act as Chairman and Mr. Langford as Honorary Secretary to the Committee. This committee had several meetings; a sub-committee was appointed to draw up a report on the subject, of which the following is a copy:—

Report of the Sub-Committee appointed to draw up suggestions for the General Committee.

Gentlemen,

We have, after due consideration of the subject, agreed to recommend the following suggestions for the consideration of the committee:—

1. We are of opinion that the clubs cannot be permanent unless they are ultimately self-supporting.

2. We anticipate that in the first instance clubs will be formed by the assistance of employers in the district, and that, in all such cases, the management should be fairly divided between the promoters and the members; but that in the event of clubs being established by the formation of companies of artizan-shareholders exclusively, this committee would occupy towards such clubs the position of a consulting committee, should the managers of the club desire their counsel.

3. That your committee should be regarded as a provisional committee, to give counsel and aid when required, and not as a permanent committee of control.

4. That if a permanent central committee should be hereafter found desirable, it should consist of delegates elected from the district club committees.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

That the committee should select districts for the establishment of four clubs, take measures for the convening of a meeting in the locality of each site so selected for the consideration of the proposal, and, if approved, for the appointment of a local committee.

Each local committee should do the following things :—Take a house suitable for a club ; provide funds for its furniture, and the first year's rent and taxes ; provide furniture, &c., appoint a conductor ; frame regulations, and superintend the management of the club.

It was resolved—

That the report be approved and adopted, and the following resolutions were afterwards agreed to :—

That the four districts selected be in the neighbourhood of Edmund Street, Bradford Street, St. George's, and Gosta Green.

That the sub-committee for the Edmund Street district be Arthur Ryland, George Dixon, William Harris, and J. A. Langford.

That the sub-committee for the Bradford Street district be Dr. J. C. Miller, Thomas Lloyd, Rev. C. Clarke, J. B. Browett, E. Peyton, and J. R. Boyce.

That the sub-committee for the St. George's district be the Revs. W. Cockin, Herbert Peel, G. D. Boyle, C. Vince, and Mr. J. H. Stack.

That the appointment of a sub-committee for the Gosta Green district be deferred for the present.

The committee for the Edmund Street district at once set to work, and issued the following circular :—

Dear Sir,

The want of places in which working men can meet together for recreation and social enjoyment without the temptation of the public house, has induced a number of well-known gentlemen to attempt the formation in this town of institutions, which, under the name of Working Men's Clubs, have worked so advantageously in London and in other places. The undersigned are a sub-committee elected to assist in establishing such a club, in a position which will adapt it for the use of the district lying between Broad Street and Newhall Street ; and we respectfully invite your attendance at a meeting to consider the subject, to be held in the Theatre of the Midland Institute, at eight o'clock on Friday, March 27th, 1863. Your attention is called to the third page of this circular, where you will find a brief statement of the objects proposed, in carrying out which we earnestly ask your co-operation and support.

We are, dear sir,
Yours obediently,
Arthur Ryland.
George Dixon.
William Harris.
J. A. Langford.

To this was attached a short account of the object of the Clubs and the intentions of their promoters. We quote this paper:—

The object of the promoters is to form clubs in which working men may meet for recreation, for social enjoyment, and for harmless games; and gradually, the proposed Clubs and Institutes might become the houses of call for men in search of work, and will be the centres of various Working Men's Societies, and of any similar agencies calculated to improve the condition of the working classes.

The aim of the promoters in all cases would be to help working men to help themselves, rather than to establish or manage institutions for them, this being as essential for the moral usefulness as for the permanent success of our endeavours. Local and working-class efforts may frequently be fostered and developed by external help with the happiest result, when the establishment of entirely new institutions, managed by the higher classes in the neighbourhood, or by a central society, would be viewed with jealousy or indifference. The very first step towards forming a club or institute would be to interest the working men of the district in the undertaking, and to make them feel that, when once started, its management and success must depend mainly on themselves.

It is proposed that, in the first instance, the furniture, rent and taxes for one year, shall be provided by subscription; but afterwards the clubs should be self-supporting.

That each club should be managed by a local committee, elected at a meeting held in the district; and that the duties of such local committee should be—1.—To take a house suitable for a club, provide funds for its furniture and the first year's rent and taxes. 2.—Provide the furniture, &c. 3.—Appoint a conductor. 4.—Frame regulations and superintend the management of the club.

The meeting was well attended by working men, and a Committee was elected to carry out the four propositions given above. Mr. W. Scholefield, M.P., was written to on the subject, and returned the following generous reply:—

London Reform Club,
Dear Sir, 30th April, 1863.

I have read with much interest the papers you have been good enough to send me on the subject of Working Men's Clubs.

The plan proposed, which I am pleased to see contemplates that the clubs shall be ultimately self-supporting, seems well calculated to promote at once the social well-being and the moral and intellectual advancement of those for whom such clubs are intended; and I shall heartily co-

operate with the friends of the scheme in endeavouring to bring it to a successful issue.

Owing to the many calls upon me, I cannot do all I could desire for this object; but I shall be very glad to contribute ten pounds towards the preliminary expenses, and to add to this amount hereafter, should it be needful.

I am, dear sir,
Yours truly,
Mr. J. A. Langford. WILLIAM SCHOLEFIELD.

Some time was taken in finding suitable premises; but at length No. 7, Newhall Street, formerly used as a factor's warehouse, was taken; subscriptions to the amount of £180 were raised to pay for alterations and fittings up; a manager and matron were appointed, and by the middle of July the place was ready for the reception of members, and two thousand copies of the following handbill were circulated in the district:—

BIRMINGHAM CENTRAL WORKING MEN'S CLUB, 7, Newhall Street. The Club will open to Members only on Monday, July 20, 1863 The *object* of the Club is to provide its members with Refreshments, Reading Rooms, and opportunities for Recreation and Social Intercourse.

RULES.

1.—Any person wishing to become a member of the Club can do so by applying to the Manager at any time when the Club is open.

2.—No person under the age of sixteen is admissible.

3.—The subscription to be 2s. per quarter, or 2d. per week, payable in advance. The quarterly tickets to date from the time of entrance, but the weekly tickets to run from Monday to Monday. Only quarterly members to be qualified to vote.

4.—The Club to be open on Week-days from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

5.—The Reading and Refreshment Rooms only to be open on Sundays, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

6.—All betting and gambling strictly prohibited.

7.—The privileges of any member guilty of improper conduct or of using improper language, may be suspended by any two members of the Committee, on the representation of the Manager, until the next meeting of the Committee, who may expel any such member; and his current subscription shall be forfeited.

J. A. LANGFORD,
Honorary Secretary.

Tickets of membership may be procured any day this week by applying to the Manager, Mr. Richardson, at the Club.

No intoxicating drinks were at first sold in the Club, nor were dinners provided, although members could take a chop or steak and have it cooked, paying a penny for the accommodation. The following exceedingly low scale of charges for refreshments was adopted. Tea and coffee one penny per cup; small pot of tea fourpence, a large ditto sixpence; a slice of bread and butter a halfpenny; ginger beer three half-pence a bottle, and lemonade twopence; a plate of biscuits three half-pence, buns and eggs a penny each; cigars twopence, and papers of tobacco one penny each.

Dr. William Church, a gentleman intimately connected with the history of inventions in Birmingham, in which town he had resided for more than forty years of his long life, died at Vermont, in the United States, on October 7th, aged 85 years. The announcement of his death appeared in the *Birmingham Journal* on April 23, 1864, and in the same paper the following biographical sketch of "one of the first mechanical geniuses of his age," appeared:—

His ancestors emigrated from England to America about the year 1630. "Church," the "Indian hunter," well known in the early annals of New England, and renowned for his bravery and sagacity in defending the infant settlements against the invasions of the Indians, was one of this family. Doctor Church was born in the State of Vermont, and was educated for the medical profession. At an early age he evinced a love for mechanics and displayed an inventive genius. When a boy, the use of steam power being then quite in its infancy, he constructed a steam engine. In the year 1811 he took out a patent for a screw propeller, and asserted that eventually the ocean would be navigated by steam. About the year 1818 he made a short visit to England, returning in the year 1822, for the purpose of constructing a printing press of his own design. He was engaged upon this at the "Britannia," so called, in Lancaster Street, in this town. The press was unique in many respects. One part of the plan was to set the type by keys, acted upon like those of a piano-forte, and much was said of it at the time, but the design was abandoned. The press, however, was finished, and was said by some to be superior to Napier's, then recently introduced; but the *Times* and other large establishments having supplied themselves with the latter, the business was not continued.

In the year 1825 the Doctor invented a mode of smelting iron by hot blast, and with anthracite coal, and took out a patent for the invention

in America. The mode of using the hot blast was explained to a leading ironmaster of Staffordshire, who discouraged the attempt, on the ground that the coldest blast possible was required, and in consequence no patent was taken out in England. About ten or fifteen years afterwards Mr. Neilson and a Company at Glasgow took out a patent for the hot blast; and Mr. Crane, formerly of Birmingham, took out a patent for smelting iron with anthracite coal. The former patent was said to have cleared to the proprietors the sum of £600,000. The invention made the iron trade of Scotland. Mr. Neilson, Mr. Baird's attorney, and Mr. Crane, soon after the decision of the great iron case, "Neilson *v.* Baird," not having been previously aware of Dr. Church's patent, fully admitted to the writer of this article, that it covered the whole ground of both of the English patents.

From the year 1825 downwards, Dr. Church was engaged in inventing and constructing machines for making spikes, nails, button shanks, hooks and eyes, &c., &c. That steam carriages could be propelled profitably on gravel roads, was a favourite theory with him, and he invented and built a carriage that was driven to Worcester and Coventry several times, under the superintendence and management of Mr. Wakefield, sen., now of Harford Street. He built a railway engine on a plan of his own, which was run for a period on the railroad to Bristol; and also invented a railway ticket machine of great merit. So long ago as the year 1832 he proposed to lay down wires to London, and to communicate by electricity. Of late years he invented, in connection with a townsman, and constructed with the aid of Mr. Higgins, of Moseley Street, a breech-loading cannon, now generally admitted by those who have the means of knowing, to be the best of any brought out, and probably the only one of them that will eventually be adopted. The Doctor took out, in all, above seventy patents of his own invention—a work involving an amount of study, thought, and application painful to contemplate—nevertheless he has said he never had a head-ache.

Dr. Church's mind was so fertile of invention that as soon as the mechanical difficulty of that upon which he was engaged was overcome, he was apt to lose interest in it and commence on some other. Consequently promising undertakings were often left unfinished; but, notwithstanding, many useful and valuable inventions were brought to maturity, and thousands of persons, at the present time, are earning a livelihood or reaping benefit in making articles, or by using modes designed by him. Possessing inventive and mechanical abilities of the highest order, had he been associated, at an early period, with a good practical machinist and man of business, their productions would undoubtedly have ranked in the first-class. His information was general and extensive, and no one could hold converse with him without gaining useful knowledge. He was remarkably simple and temperate in his

habits, and unpretending in his intercourse with others. Twice married, the last time in this town, he survived the second wife by about twelve years.

Five years since, his son-in-law, residing in Vermont, a gentleman in affluent circumstances, invited him to spend the rest of his days with him. Being then eighty years of age, and incapable of further active exertion, he at once resolved to accept the invitation; and by the aid of a wealthy borough Councillor, personally unknown to him, and a few friends, was enabled to embark for his native land. Birmingham on that day lost one of its most gifted citizens; and some old friends, who now drop the tear of sympathy to his memory, sorrowed that they should see his face no more.

The Doctor never accumulated money. His ambition, although he not unfrequently valued his inventions at a high figure, was not in that direction. He spent a long, studious, and laborious life in endeavouring to contribute to the wants and comforts of man; and in passing off the stage, would console himself with the belief that the days allotted him had not been altogether spent in vain. He died on the 7th of October last from an attack of paralysis, but owing to an accident, his death was not communicated to his friends here until the present week.—*Requiescat in pace.*

On November 9, Mr. W. Holliday was elected Mayor for the ensuing year.

In this month we lost three men who had been of eminent service to the town; two of them had attained the term usually allotted to man, but the third had not reached his prime of life, and had given sufficient proof of his desire and ability to still further aid in the intellectual, and especially the artistic position of Birmingham. These three were Samuel Lines, Edward Townsend Cox, and Sir Francis E. Scott, Bart.

Sir Francis Edward Scott, of Great Barr Hall, died at St. Leonards-on-Sea, November 21, aged 39 years. His health had been failing for a considerable time, but hopes were entertained that complete cessation from active employment, combined with medical skill and the advantages to be derived from a more genial climate, would arrest the progress of disease. But these anticipations were doomed to disappointment. His removal was a serious loss to the public,

as well as to his family connections and immediate friends. To the Midland Institute he rendered invaluable services, sparing neither his purse nor more active labour, to advance its prosperity and usefulness; and its supporters must, no doubt, cherish a grateful remembrance of the zeal and ability which he displayed as Chairman of the Canvassing Committee, appointed to obtain the funds requisite to liquidate the heavy building debt. In the movement for the purchase of Aston Hall and Park, as an aid to the cause of popular progress in this town, he bore a conspicuous part, and, in addition to the time and energy which he devoted to that undertaking, he generously, at his sole expense, fitted up one of the rooms with the publications of the Arundel Society. To the cause of Art and Art Education he was a firm and enlightened adherent, as was evinced by his solicitude for the efficiency of the Government School of Art, and by the institution of special prizes for design; while the deep interest he took in the progress of architecture, and the ability with which he advocated his views, was abundantly shown by his able pamphlet on the Foreign Office Question. Of the Council of the Society before named, he was an able and hard-working member. In brief, Sir Francis was a satisfactory type of the accomplished English gentleman. His character in private life commanded universal respect. Those who knew him will cordially agree with the writer in the *Daily Post*;—

> True, upright, and honourable, no word of his required any one to certify it; no deed of his could reflect shame upon the doer. Open-hearted and liberal, ready to help, quick to praise, a warm friend, a noble adversary. Sir Francis has left to his young children the glorious inheritance of a good and an unsullied name.

Sir Francis left four children, the heir to the Baronetcy being only nine years old. The noble-hearted Baronet bequeathed his fine collection of Limoges Enamels to the Midland Institute; adding a bequest of £50 to provide a case for their protection and exhibition. The enamels are now in the Corporation Art Gallery.

On the same day, November 21, Mr. Samuel Lines, the well-known artist, died at his house in Temple Row West, in the 86th year of his age. The following sketch of his life appeared in the *Birmingham Journal* on November 28:—

Though he had lived here for close upon seventy years, Mr. Lines was not a native of Birmingham. Born of respectable parents at Allesley, near Coventry, in the year 1778, he belonged to that large class of Birmingham men of whom Hutton, the historian, says, "Birmingham, like a compassionate nurse, not only draws our persons but our esteem from the place of our nativity, and fixes it upon herself." At the early age of nine years Mr. Lines had the misfortune to lose his mother, an excellent and amiable woman, the mistress of a boarding school at Allesley, and this event led to a marked and painful change in his position, for he was placed under the care of an uncle, a farmer, and though a young and delicate boy, was obliged to take an active share in agricultural work. From a very early age, however, he had manifested a passionate love for Art, and this irrepressible bent of his mind ultimately determined his life-long career. His first efforts to acquire a knowledge of drawing were of the very humblest kind, and he has been often heard to tell, with a good-humoured laugh, that his earliest artistic employment was the colouring of such engravings as a country lad could easily obtain, the colours being restricted to a bit of gamboge, blue furtively squeezed out of the laundress's "blue bag," red made of pounded brick, and green extracted from the stems of flowers. As it was evidently impossible to convert him into a good farmer, he was sent to Birmingham in the year 1794, and apprenticed for five years to a Mr. Keeling, a clock dial enameller and decorator, then an important trade and one affording much more scope than might be supposed for acquiring some knowledge of decorative art. For several years after this period Mr. Lines's Art occupation was that of a designer, and in this capacity he was often employed by Mr. Clay, the founder of the *papier mâché* trade in Birmingham. He also made designs for Wyon, Halliday, and other die engravers, who were constantly occupied, during "the French war," in executing medals to commemorate British victories. At that time Birmingham was famous for sword making—then a much more prominent local manufacture than it is now—and Mr. Lines was frequently employed to make designs for ornamenting the blades of swords of honour, presented by the Government and various public bodies to officers who had distinguished themselves in military or naval operations. This brought him into contact with Mr. Gunby, then the principal Birmingham sword maker, an intelligent collector of pictures, and himself an amateur artist of no slight ability. Being thus interested in Art, Mr. Gunby did much not only to encourage Mr. Lines, but also the late

David Cox, allowing both of them the privilege of studying in his gallery, assisting them by his advice, and proving a liberal purchaser of some of their earliest works. Anxious to improve the taste of Birmingham manufacturers, Mr. Gunby strongly advised Mr. Lines to turn his attention to teaching drawing. Accordingly, in 1807, Mr. Lines took the first step in what was destined to be the occupation and the delight of his future life. His school was set up in Newhall Street, where, in a house exactly facing Bread Street, he occupied two rooms at a rent of five pounds a year, with an engagement to pay six pounds if the speculation answered. His classes embraced what was then a novelty in Birmingham—drawing from the cast as well as from ordinary "copies;" and such was the ardour of both teacher and pupils that work began at five o'clock in the morning. The school prospered so greatly that, in a comparatively short time, Mr. Lines was enabled to remove to a house he built for himself in Temple Row, and where, for the last fifty years, until within a very few weeks of his death, he continued his teaching, with honour to himself and profit to the many hundreds of persons who were from time to time enrolled amongst his pupils.

But while thus rightly attentive to his own interests, Mr. Lines was equally earnest in promoting those of the public. In 1809, in conjunction with Moses Haughton (one of the most distinguished artists Birmingham has produced), Charles and Vincent Barber, and others—of whom none now survive—he established a life academy in Peck Lane, a street leading out of New Street, close to the Free Grammar School, but swept away some years since when the North-Western Railway Station was built. This life-class became so flourishing that, in 1814, it had to be removed to a larger room in Union Passage (now forming part of the buildings of the Birmingham Fire Office), and in the same year, in this room, was held the first public exhibition of pictures by residents in and within thirty miles of Birmingham. By the year 1821 Birmingham Art having outgrown the humble accommodation to be had in Union Passage, Mr. Lines was consulted by the late Mr. Archibald Kenrick and others as to the possibility of founding the Society of Arts, and the project being heartily taken up by Sir Robert Lawley and many other gentlemen, both in Birmingham and the county, a building in New Street, erected for a panorama, was converted into a School of Art, and a fine collection of casts, given by Sir Robert Lawley, was deposited there —the gift and the room being at that time probably unequalled in the provinces. Of the new institution Mr. Lines was one of the founders; and actually was the earliest subscriber, and for many years he assisted largely in the management of the classes and exhibitions. Owing to a long series of unhappy disputes between the lay and professional members of the Society—the merits of which it is not now necessary to enter into—the artists determined, in the year 1842, to establish a Society of

their own, and accordingly the Society of Artists was formed and took up its quarters at the Athenæum, in Temple Row, Mr. Lines's services being wisely recognized by his appointment as Treasurer and Curator. These offices he held for sixteen years, and during that period he discharged the duties with such laborious and conscientious industry as to merit the warmest thanks of his colleagues and the town.

Following his occupation as much for the pleasure it afforded as for the profit it brought, Mr. Lines made Art the enjoyment as well as the labour of his life. His industry was, indeed, something marvellous. For many years—until advancing age compelled him to take more rest—he rose at daybreak, and by six o'clock was always to be found in his painting room or his school, remaining there, with short intervals, until late in the evening. None but those intimately acquainted with him can form any idea of the amount of labour he was thus enabled to perform, seemingly without fatigue. He was remarkable, indeed, both for physical energy and activity, and for uniform cheerfulness and evenness of temper. So far as Art was concerned nothing ruffled him but wilful carelessness or neglectful waste of natural powers. If a pupil was willing to learn he was always ready to teach, and dullness or want of capacity in the student seemed to have no other effect than to quicken his desire to cultivate to the utmost the gifts he might be able to discover.

Mr. Edward Townsend Cox died at his house in Temple Row, on November 26, in the 94th or 95th year of his age.

Mr. Cox was born in Deritend, it is believed, either in 1769 or 1770, but the exact date is uncertain. His father, the Rev. Thomas Cox, M.A. (of University College, Oxford), was, for the long period of forty years, Chaplain of St. John's, Deritend. His mother was Mary, the daughter of the Rev. Edward Townsend Kenwrick, M.A., Vicar of Stratford-on-Avon. The Kenwricks claimed an ancestry extending back to the Conquest. At one time (as we learn from Walford's "County Families") they were lords of the manor and hundred of King's Sutton, in Northamptonshire, which was bought from the sixth Earl of Derby by John Kenwrick, of Eccleston House, in Lancashire, where his ancestors had been seated for many generations. In his family the estate remained until 1735, when, from the hands of Mr. George Kenwrick, it passed to Sir John Willes, the then Attorney-General, and from him it came into the possession of the Leigh family. It is related, in the History of

Northamptonshire, that Charles the First was for a time concealed by the Kenwricks in the manor house at King's Sutton, and the chair in which the unfortunate monarch sat during his trial at Westminster is now in the possession of Mr. Cox's family.

Mr. Cox was educated at the Free Grammar School, and having chosen surgery as his profession, he studied, for a period of five years at the General Hospital, then newly opened, under George Kennedy, the most eminent surgeon of that day. After leaving the Hospital, he became a student at Guy's and St. Thomas's, London, where he attracted the personal notice and engaged the warm friendship of such men as Dr. Clarke, and the still more famous Sir Astley Cooper. On the completion of his studies, Mr. Cox settled for a short time at Stratford-on-Avon, with which place, as we have mentioned, his mother's family was intimately connected; but, finding a country life unsuited to his taste, he shortly afterwards removed to Birmingham. Here he speedily took a high position amongst his professional brethren, and from time to time discharged, with credit and usefulness, the duties of surgeon to several of the public institutions. For example, he was for forty years surgeon to the Town Infirmary (which some of our readers may remember as existing some years ago next the Workhouse, in Lichfield Street), and for a period of almost equal duration he was one of the surgeons to the General Dispensary. Later in life he took a very active and distinguished part in establishing and conducting the Royal School of Medicine; and, still later, the Queen's College and Queen's Hospital owed much to his judgment and energy. Of the last-named institution he was for many years one of the acting surgical staff, and on his retirement was appointed honorary surgeon, an office he retained until his death. His interest in Queen's College was second only to that displayed by the founder, his son, whom he liberally assisted with funds to establish the institution. In addition to the appointments above mentioned, Mr. Cox, for upwards of sixty years, had medical charge of the hospital at the barracks for the

troops stationed in the town; and he used to boast that, as medical inspector of recruits for the line, marines and militia, an entire army had passed under his examination. Indeed he was at one time himself very near entering the army, for at the breaking out of the great European war, a full surgeoncy was offered him by the military authorities; but his attachment to Birmingham induced him to decline the flattering distinction. It should, also, be recorded that when Jenner's great discovery was virulently opposed by many leaders of medical opinion, and when vaccination was looked upon by the mass of the public as something little short of a crime, Mr. Cox took a prominent and active part in combatting popular prejudice and resisting the opposition of his professional colleagues. In short, as a surgeon, he was worthy to be enrolled in the long list of eminent practicioners who have done honour to Birmingham—the Johnstones, Bright, Ash, Pearson, Withering, Freer, Dickenson, and Wood. In all his dealings he was remarkable for that high sense of professional etiquette which especially stamped the character of the times and the school to which he belonged, and in which his fame was justly acquired.

In this year the Birmingham Savings' Bank was transferred to the Post Office administration. On November 24, the trustees adopted the resolution to make such a transfer, in consequence of their unwillingness to assume the responsibilities laid down by the recently-passed Act of Parliament on the subject of Savings' Banks. On the 26th a notice was issued that the officers of the Post Office would establish themselves at the Bank in Cannon Street, on December the 1st. The last annual meeting of the trustees was held on January 13, and the statement of accounts showed that the Bank had in hand £574,134 12s. 0d., divided among 31,833 depositors, and that during the year it had expended £1,980 0s. 5d. in management. Of the deposits, 10,986 were in sums less than £1 each; 8,971 ranged from £1 to £10; 5,762 from £10 to £30; 4,048 from £30 to £75; 698 from £75 to £100; and 1,129 from £100 to £200. The account thus

showed a surplus of cash, after providing for the claims of all depositors, amounting to about £4,000, in addition to the value of the bank premises.

The annual Cattle, Poultry, and Dog Shows were held on November 30, and December 1, 2, and 3. The number of visits to the first two was 61,530; and the receipts at the door, £1,216 17s. 3d.; the sale of poultry realized £1,054. To the Dog Show the number of visitors was 21,561; receipts at the door, £1,114 15s. 9d., and the sales of dogs amounted to £275 17s. 0d.

On Christmas Day, a fearful fire occured at a public house in Little Hill Street, kept by Mr. Gameson, at which six of the inmates were burnt to death, and three others dangerously injured. A subscription was raised for the unfortunate family.

The year closed with a very laudable undertaking, began and afterwards carried out by working men. On the last day of the year a meeting was held to take preliminary measures for raising a subscription among the working men towards the purchase of a lifeboat. The Mayor presided, and Dr. Miller and Mr. J. A. Langford took part in the proceedings. A committee was appointed to take the necessary steps, the Mayor was elected president, Dr. Miller vice-president, Mr. G. Dixon treasurer, and Mr. Fulford honorary secretary.

At the annual meeting of the Birmingham Dining Halls Company (limited), held on February 29, 1864, the following report was presented :—

The directors have much satisfaction in reporting that the first experiment of a public Dining Hall in Birmingham has proved decidedly successful. The establishment in Slaney Street, opened by Messrs. Lloyds and Mr. Gem, in June last, was, by agreement with those gentlemen, merged into the business of this company in the month of August. The accounts, given continuously from the opening of the establishment to the end of the year, show that a gross profit of £83 16s. 6d. has been made in the seven months trading; but respecting this figure it has to be observed that liabilities for rates, water, office expenses, &c., are yet to be apportioned. There is no doubt that the branch establishment will

pay a dividend of £5 per cent. on the capital, but another year's experience must be acquired before an estimate is formed of its exact results. The directors have taken a lease for ninety-nine years, on terms which they believe to be highly favourable, of conveniently situated premises in Cambridge Street, where a hall of spacious dimensions is now rapidly approaching completion. As nothing was paid in the year 1863 on the building contract for this hall, no charges under that head appear in the present statement of accounts. Of the £5,000, fixed as the capital of the company, only £3,720 has yet been subscribed for; but since there is now well-ascertained proof that the undertaking will yield a dividend of £5 per cent., it may be expected that the remaining shares will soon find applicants. With respect to the balance of £83 16s. 6d. appearing as profit on the Slaney Street Branch, the directors recommend that it be employed in reducing the charge for preliminary expenditure.

At a meeting held on March 4, under the presidency of the Mayor, to consider the best means of recognizing the services of Sir Rowland Hill, it was resolved:—

That as a permanent memorial of the public appreciation of the eminent services rendered to the social and commercial progress of this and other countries by Sir Rowland Hill, in originating and (notwithstanding great difficulties) carrying to a successful issue the scheme of Penny Postage, a statue be raised to his honour in the town of Birmingham.

A committee was elected to carry out this resolution, and a subscription commenced, and about £180 was raised at the meeting.

On the 11th of March the terrible inundation at Sheffield, caused by the bursting of the Bradfield reservoir, occurred. The loss of life and property was very great; no fewer than two hundred and seventy persons being swept away by the resistless current. A national subscription, headed by the Queen, was raised for the benefit of the sufferers, and this town at once joined in the work of charity. A meeting was held, under the presidency of the Mayor, on the 18th, at which it was resolved:—

That the disastrous inundation at Sheffield, which has resulted in an awful loss of life, and an immense destruction of property, is a calamity that demands the sympathy of the people of Birmingham, and their liberal contributions.

A committee was formed and a subscription list opened, and in a very short time upwards of £2,000 were raised.

This year General Garibaldi paid his famous visit to England. He arrived at Southampton on April 3, and on the 11th made his public entry into London, which "partook of the character of a royal progress." The Birmingham Town Council, at its meeting on the 5th, passed a resolution inviting the General to visit this town. The Mayor went to the Isle of Wight, where Garibaldi was then staying as the guest of Mr. Seely, M.P., and conveyed the invitation to the illustrious patriot. On the 8th a telegram was sent to the Mayor from Cowes, stating that "Garibaldi accepts the invitation." A public meeting was held on the 15th of gentlemen desirous of co-operating with the General Purposes Committee of the Town Council, in making the necessary arrangements for the reception of the General on his visit to the town. A large committee was appointed; Mr. J. A. Langford was elected honorary secretary *pro tem.*, and a vote of thanks passed to the Town Council for having sent the invitation to Garibaldi, and to the Mayor for having called the meeting. At a meeting of the General Committee, held on the 18th, an executive commmittee of nine was elected to co-operate with the General Purposes Committee. The following are the names:—

Joseph Jones, Chairman of the Working Men's Committee.
J. Oxford, Vice-Chairman of ditto.
Samuel Timmins.
Rev. Dr. Miller.
J. S. Wright.
G. F. Muntz.
John Jaffray.
George Dixon.
R. W. Dale.

Unfortunately the promised visit was never paid. From causes which have never been satisfactorily explained, Garibaldi unexpectedly left London on April 22nd; he was conveyed to Caprera in the Duke of Sutherland's yacht, accompanied by his noble host and a few members of his family. The balance of the subscription raised for his reception in Birmingham, was paid to the fund for the assistance of his efforts on behalf of Italy.

In this year, on the 23rd of April, was celebrated the tercentenary of the Birth of Shakspere, in which Birmingham took a prominent and honorable part. The monument raised in this town is the Shakspere Memorial Library—the noblest and most appropriate ever yet raised to the memory of the poet. The history of this great undertaking is given in the chapter devoted to the Free Libraries of the town.

On May 12, a meeting of agriculturalists was held in Birmingham, at which a Midland Farmers' Club was formed. Its object is to hold periodical meetings in this town, at which papers are read and subjects connected with practical agriculture discussed.

The memorial stone of Immanuel Church, Broad Street, was laid by the Rev. G. S. Bull, on the 12th.

On the 1st of September, in the 67th year of his age, Alderman Sir John Ratcliff died at his residence, Wydrington, Edgbaston. The following is a brief sketch of his life:—

Sir John Ratcliff was born in Birmingham in November, 1798, and had thus completed his 66th year. Up to middle age he was closely occupied by the engagements of a laborious business life; but having acquired a considerable fortune, he retired from active business, and, entering the Town Council, began to take part in the affairs of the town. The incidents of his public life are so fresh within the memory of our readers that we need do no more than briefly refer to them. After having held the office of Low Bailiff, he was returned to the Town Council, at the end of 1851, as one of the members for St. Peter's Ward. In September, 1853, he was appointed an Alderman, and in 1856 he was elected Mayor, and held that office without intermission until November, 1859, having been elected three times in succession, a distinction unprecedented in the annals of the Corporation. During Sir John's Mayoralty he had the honour of receiving as his guest the Duke of Cambridge, who visited Birmingham on the 1st and 2nd of June, 1857, to open Calthorpe Park. The visit of the Duke was followed in the next year by that of the Queen, who, with the Prince Consort, came to this town on the 15th of June, 1858, to open Aston Park. On that occasion her Majesty, after having received an address from the Corporation in the Town Hall, conferred upon Sir John Ratcliff the honour of Knighthood. After his retirement from the Mayoralty, Sir John continued to take part, though less actively, in the business of the Council, and at the period of his death he was an alderman, and held the office of Chairman

of the General Purposes Committee. He was also a Magistrate for the borough, and in that capacity acted as Chairman of the Visiting Justices. In politics Sir John was a Conservative. He was throughout his life a prominent member of the Wesleyan body, in connection with which he filled various offices, and, until the present year, regularly attended the annual Conference in a representative capacity. To his liberality the Wesleyans are greatly indebted for the handsome chapel they are now building in Martin Street, Islington. To this brief record we have only to add that Sir John was an active Freemason, and that at the time of his death he was a member of the Grand Lodge of England, in which he held the office of Junior Grand Warden.

On October 11, a meeting was held, under the presidency of the Mayor, to initiate the formation of a Working Men's Industrial Exhibition. A resolution supporting the object was passed, and a committee appointed to carry it into effect.

On November 9, the Town Council elected Mr. H. Wiggin the Mayor for the ensuing year.

On the 24th, Mr. Richard Spooner, M.P. for North Warwickshire, died at Leamington, in the 82nd year of his age. The following sketch of his life is from the *Birmingham Journal* of the 26th :—

Richard Spooner was born, in 1783, at Birches Green, Erdington, the residence of his father, Mr. Isaac Spooner, a banker and magistrate at Birmingham. At a comparatively early age he entered on a business life as a partner in the banking house which now bears his name, and with which up to the period of his death he maintained an unbroken connection. At first he displayed no interest in public affairs; but, in 1812, when he was approaching his thirtieth year, Mr. Spooner suddenly stepped into a foremost place in public life, not merely in Birmingham, but in the country. In that year his friend and partner, Mr. Attwood, was chosen High Bailiff of Birmingham, an office of no importance excepting that in virtue of it he became chairman of all town's meetings, and the nominal leader of the town in all public affairs. The senseless policy then adopted by England and France, and which found its embodiment respectively in the Berlin and Milan decrees of Napoleon, and the reactionary Orders in Council issued by the British Government, had inflicted well nigh irreparable damage upon the great manufacturing towns, and especially upon Birmingham, whose American and Continental trade was almost ruined. The first use to which Mr. Attwood put his new position was to organise an opposition both in the

country and in Parliament, to the short sighted policy of the Government. In this work Mr. Spooner heartly joined, and to him belongs much of the credit of the movement which finally established the illegality of the Orders in Council, and thus led to their entire repeal. When this result had been achieved, Mr. Attwood and Mr. Spooner made a kind of triumphal entry into Birmingham. As they returned from London they were *fêted* at the city of Coventry, and on nearing Birmingham they were met on the Coventry Road by a large assemblage of the people, who took the horses from the carriage, and themselves drew the vehicle with its occupants into the middle of the town, a man, named Steer, a popular representative of the working class, sitting on the pole of the carriage. In the following year, 1813, Mr. Spooner himself became High Bailiff, and in this year he strenuously supported the famous opposition, originated by Mr. Attwood, to the renewal of the Charter of the East India Company. It may be noted, as an interesting piece of local history, that 1812 and 1813 were the first years in which Birmingham appears prominently on the Liberal side of any public question; and therefore it was in these years that the town took its first steps towards regaining the character which it most deservedly lost by the atrocious riots of 1791.

At this time Mr. Spooner was, or appeared to be, a decided Liberal. Curiously enough his colleague, Mr. Attwood, the destined leader of the Political Union, was disposed at the outset to cast in his lot with the Tories, and was induced to quit them finally only when he found them hopelessly inert, and resolutely wedded to their traditional policy of obstruction. We have said that Mr. Spooner was a Liberal. He was, indeed, something more than a Liberal, and his Conservative supporters of later years would not be a little startled if they could read the fervid and uncompromising speeches he delivered in his younger days, in favour of the principles of civil and and religious liberty. His opinions were, perhaps, a little more strongly 'pronounced' than his convictions really warranted; but this can hardly be wondered at when it is remembered that the profession of decided Liberal views seemed then most likely to realize the great object of his public life, to obtain a seat in the House of Commons. His first effort to become a member of Parliament was made so far back as 1820, when, at the general election consequent upon the accession of George the Fourth, he contested the representation of Boroughbridge upon Liberal principles. Notwithstanding the strenuous exertions of the Duke of Newcastle, to whom the borough 'belonged,' Mr. Spooner was returned, in conjunction with another Liberal, Mr. Lawson; but on petition, he was unseated. In 1822 Mr. Spooner made a second attempt to enter Parliament. He was chosen by the Reformers as their candidate for the county of Warwick, in opposition to Mr. Francis Lawley. The election caused an excitement which still lives

vividly in the memories of those who took part in it. A great number of voters—nearly all of them Reformers—then lived in Birmingham, and Reform principles had developed with such force and rapidity that the Birmingham men were confident of being able to carry the man of their choice, against the combination of landlords, who looked upon 'the county' as their own political (as it was their actual) property. Every vehicle in Birmingham was hired to convey voters to Warwick on the day of nomination. Blue ribbons, flags, streamers, bands of music, enlivened the whole length of the road from Birmingham to the county town; and round every man's hat was pinned a blue paper with the inscription—'Spooner for ever!' But unhappily, the votes of the enthusiastic Birmingham men failed to secure Mr. Spooner's election. Before he could sit for Warwickshire, it was necessary that he should adjure what then seemed to be his settled political creed. His defeat had, however, one effect satisfactory enough to Mr. Spooner. He became more popular than ever in Birmingham. He was identified with every political movement on behalf of Liberalism. No meeting was considered complete without his presence, no 'cause' had any chance of success that was not supported by his eloquent and energetic speeches. Nor did politics claim his undivided attention. He had already manifested the first tendency towards the strongly pronounced religious opinions which characterized his after life. At the recent jubilee of the local branch of the Church Missionary Society it was remarked that Mr. Spooner was the only surviving member of the first committee formed in Birmingham, in 1814. Education, which had then many enemies to combat and many obstacles to overcome, found in him a steady friend and a warm advocate. Soon after his candidature for Warwickshire, mechanics' institutes, which had been originated in London by Birbeck, Brougham, and Mackintosh, were established in the chief towns of the provinces. It should ever be remembered to Mr. Spooner's honour that he took chief part in promoting the formation of a Mechanics' Institute in Birmingham. He presided at the first meeting held on the subject, made a powerful and effective speech in favour of the object for which the meeting was called, answered the objections which it was then the fashion to urge against the diffusion of education amongst 'the lower orders,' and promised his hearty co-operation in the labours necessary to set the institution on a firm basis. This promise he redeemed by becoming the first President of the Mechanics' Institute, and for a considerable period he regularly attended its meetings, which were then held in the School-house at the back of Ebenezer Chapel, in Steelhouse Lane.

Politics, however, offered to Mr. Spooner an irresistible attraction; and in 1826 he presented himself as a candidate for the borough of Stafford, still upon Liberal principles. Once more he was defeated, but though beaten he was not discouraged. Applying himself in the mean-

time more diligently than ever to secure the confidence of the Liberal party, he was brought forward in 1830 as their candidate for the city of Coventry. It was on this occasion that Mr. George Edmonds, then a prominent Radical politician, who had long regarded Mr. Spooner, with suspicion, came forward at last to support him. In a speech from the balcony of the principal hotel Mr. Edmonds recommended his friend as a 'good sound Radical.' With the best possible intentions Mr. Edmonds had done poor Mr. Spooner a terrible injury. Directly Mr. Edmonds had finished, the unlucky candidate walked across the balcony, shook hands with his too ardent advocate, thanked him for his speech, but, with a lugubrious face, told him frankly he had ruined the election. This foreboding turned out to be true: the Coventry people wanted a moderate Liberal, not a Radical; and by a large majority they decided to have nothing to do with Mr. Edmonds's *protégé*.

Beaten time after time, Mr. Spooner had now come to be looked upon as a permanently rejected candidate; and the general impression was that he would never attain the object of his life-long ambition. To himself, however, the matter seems to have presented itself in another light. Possibly, defeat lead him to re-consider his principles. He had failed over and over again as a Reformer; might he not succeed as a Tory? We have no desire to dwell upon this painful phase of Mr. Spooner's career; suffice it is to say that he changed sides, and from having been a bold and uncompromising Liberal, became ultimately one of the most determined, immovable, and obstructive members of the ultra Tory party. In 1831, the very year after he contested Coventry on Liberal principles, he was asked by his former friend and advocate, Mr. Edmonds, to join the famous Political Union, then in process of formation by Mr. Attwood and his associates. He refused to commit himself, as he considered his position as a magistrate inconsistent with membership of such an association. During the gigantic labours of the Union, during the passing of the Reform Bill, and for two or three years afterwards Mr. Spooner remained, as a politician, in obscurity, meditating an active opposition to the principles he once most enthusiastically upheld. At last the meditation bore fruit. In January, 1835, at the general election, he became a candidate for Birmingham itself, in opposition to his friend and former leader, Mr. Attwood, and Mr. Joshua Scholefield. He was punished by emphatic rejection—the numbers at the close of the poll being, Attwood, 1,780; Scholefield, 1,660; Spooner, 915. In 1840, when, on the retirement of Mr. Attwood, Mr. Muntz was brought forward to fill his place, Mr. Spooner did not make a second attempt, but his relative Sir Charles Wetherell, a bitter Tory, contested the borough without success. In July of the next year, there was a general election, and Mr. Spooner once more came into the field, and was once more beaten—the votes being recorded as follows—Muntz, 2,175; Scholefield,

1,963; and Spooner, 1,825. In 1844, Mr. Joshua Scholefield died, and his son, Mr. William Scholefield, was nominated to succeed him. Taking advantage of Mr. Scholefield's absence from Birmingham, and of a division amongst the Liberals, caused by the candidature of Mr. Joseph Sturge, the Tories once more pitched upon Mr. Spooner to fight their battles, and Mr. Spooner being, as Mr. William Matthews once described him, 'a glutton at punishment,' was nothing loth to accept the invitation. For the first time, most likely to his own astonishment, he was successful, the poll showing the following result :—Spooner, 2,095; Scholefield, 1,735; and Sturge, 346. For the first and only time in its political history Birmingham suffered the discredit of being represented, or, to speak accurately, misrepresented by a Tory. At the general election, in 1847, he stood once more; but this time the Liberals were united, and he was rejected, the votes being :—Muntz, 2,830; Scholefield, 2,824; Spooner, 2,302. Feeling that they owed him some reparation for his defeat, the Tories took advantage of the then pending election for North Warwickshire, and induced the landowners to accept Mr. Spooner for a candidate in conjunction with Mr. Newdegate, and in opposition to the Hon. W. H. Leigh (now Lord Leigh) the Liberal candidate. After a hard-fought contest Mr. Spooner was successful in obtaining the second seat—the numbers being—Newdegate, 2,915; Spooner, 2,451; Leigh, 2,278. From that time until his death Mr. Spooner continued to represent North Warwickshire—actively until the session of 1862, from which time advancing age and infirmities rendered him unable to attend to business, and he held the seat merely until the Tories could manage to agree upon a fitting successor.

From his election for North Warwickshire until his retirement from political life, Mr. Spooner never once swerved from his later creed. He never gave a single Liberal vote; nor, so far as we remember, any vote that ever approached to Liberalism. With his colleague, Mr. Newdegate, he clung to Protection till its dry bones were absolutely bleached. Reform was abhorrent to him. He supported with unflagging zeal every measure which operated to maintain the restrictions imposed upon Roman Catholics, Dissenters, and Jews. Every proposal which in early life would have elicited his most strenuous approval, received in his old age his most vehement opposition. Whatever other qualities were denied to him, he, at least possessed the virtue of undaunted courage. Having chosen his opinions, he proclaimed them at all seasons and at all risks, without the slightest regard to consequences. In the Birmingham Town Hall, on the county hustings, and in the House of Commons he was always the same—frank, out-spoken, courageous, manly, and invariably good humoured. His conduct in this respect was especially marked in his treatment of the two questions on which he bestowed most attention, and for which he laboured most zealously—Currency Reform, and the

repeal of the Maynooth Grant. In regard to the former he was uniformly consistent. In early life he adopted the currency views of Mr. Attwood, and to the last he clung to them, through good report and evil report. The ridicule of Sir Robert Peel, the sneers of 'the bullionists,' the laughter of the press, which associated his name with Sir Robert's famous question 'What's a pound?' never affected Mr. Spooner for a moment. Beaten on one occasion, he renewed the attack at the next opportunity; and though he never succeeded in converting his opponents, his pluck and his unfailing good humour never failed to conciliate their personal regard.

In other respects Mr. Spooner's Parliamentary and public career are fresh within the memory of our readers. But what is less known is that, on all occasions, no matter at what inconvenience to himself, his services were freely at the disposal of his constituents, of all shades of religious or political opinion. Nor did he restrict his willing and valuable aid to his own constituents. He always held, and fully acted upon the rule, that the people of Birmingham had scarcely a secondary claim to his consideration. In him, indeed, for all purposes of Ministerial and Parliamentary business, Birmingham enjoyed all the advantages of a third Member: his name was almost always to be found in the list of deputations from Birmingham, he warmly defended the local and commercial interests of the town in Parliament, and he was invariably ready to take private counsel with Birmingham men on Birmingham affairs. Of these invaluable services, even those who most strongly opposed him on political grounds, will ever entertain a deep and grateful sense; and he will be remembered, also as in other respects, a thorough 'Birmingham man,' not only in connection with the Bank which has for so many years borne his name, but as an active Governor of the Grammar School, as President of the Chamber of Commerce, as a Magistrate, a supporter of our local charities, and, until physical infirmity laid him aside, a frequent attendant and speaker at local meetings. As a man, Mr. Spooner possessed many qualities which justly commanded respect and affection. He was frank, honourable, courteous, obliging, and invariably good humoured—a fast friend, but no man's enemy. It was, indeed next to impossible to quarrel with him. While he stoutly maintained his own opinions, with a fearless courage which must sometimes have been severely tried, he was equally ready to concede to his opponents the same right of frank, free, and out-spoken expression, which he claimed and took for himself. No man fought a political battle with keener relish; but when the battle was over, no man was readier to shake hands without malice, even though he had lost the day.

Though he retained until his death his seat for North Warwickshire, Mr. Spooner had not for several sessions taken any part in public affairs. Indeed, for many months he had lived in close retirement at Leamington,

unable to hold intercourse with others than the members of his family and a few intimate personal friends. Though his physical powers had become greatly enfeebled his mind remained clear and vigourous to the last; and occasionally, even his bodily faculties seemed for a time to rally. The hopes thus created have, however, been disappointed. A few days ago Mr. Spooner's illness assumed a decidedly alarming character, on Thursday morning he was reported to be dying, and in the afternoon he quietly expired.

As we have already said, Mr. Spooner was the ninth child of Isaac Spooner, of Elmdon Hall, and of Barbara his wife, daughter of Sir Henry Gough, Bart., of Edgbaston Hall, and sister of the first Lord Calthorpe. He married, in 1804, Charlotte, 4th daughter of Nathan Wetherell, D.D., Dean of Hereford, Master of University College, Oxford, and Prebendary of Westminster. Mr. Spooner leaves three children, two sons and a daughter, the eldest the Rev. Isaac Spooner, the Vicar of Edgbaston, known to and respected by all our local readers.

The Committee appointed to raise funds for the purchase of a Lifeboat, had succeeded so well that they were enabled to purchase the first boat by the beginning of November. On the 29th of that month the boat, with its crew, was taken in procession to Soho Pool, where in the presence of thousands of spectators the "gallant craft" was launched, amid the ringing cheers of those assembled. The Mayor, (Mr. Wiggin) presented the boat to Captain Robinson, who represented the National Lifeboat Institution on the occasion, and superintended the launching. Miss Holliday, daughter of Mr. W. Holliday, in whose Mayoralty the work was begun, gracefully performed the ceremony of "christening." The boat was named "The Birmingham Lifeboat No. 1.;" and is stationed at Sutton, on the Lincolnshire coast.

The annual Cattle, Poultry, and Dog Shows were held this year on November 28th, 29th, 30th, and December 1st; the total number of visitors to the Cattle and Poultry Show was 62,533; the total receipts at the door £1,334; and the total sales of poultry amounted to £945 15s. 0d. The number of visitors to the Dog Show was 23,629; the receipts at the door £1,193 8s. 0d.; and the sales realized £324 0s. 6d.

The spiritual destitution of many of the most crowded parts of the town had attracted much attention in 1864, and

on the 19th of January, 1865, a meeting of the clergy and laity was convened, by invitation of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, to consider what measures it was desirable to take to promote and extend the ministrations of the Church in the borough. There was a large and influential attendance, and it was resolved that a society be established, to be called the Birmingham Church Extension Society. The discussion of the proposed rules lasted nearly four hours, and was resumed at a meeting held on January 31st. Another meeting was held on the 15th of March, and the committee was appointed on April 8. The Rev. George Pettitt was elected clerical secretary, Mr. Edward Gem and Mr. Charles Ratcliff lay secretaries, and Mr. Sampson S. Lloyd treasurer.

A meeting was held on January 24th, to decide what attitude the manufacturers of the town should assume with respect to the supposed intention of Government to apply the Factory Acts to Birmingham. The meeting was almost unanimous in its approval of a Factory Act. A resolution was passed appointing a committee to take into consideration any measures that might be introduced into Parliament for the regulation of the Birmingham manufactories, and to use the means necessary to obtain such modifications as may be necessary to adapt such measures to the trades of this locality. After the meeting was held several of the large firms voluntarily introduced the best provisions of the Factory Act into their manufactories.

The early meetings of the Town Council in 1865, were principally engaged in discussing the proposal of Mr. Alderman E. C. Osborne, to remove the cattle market from its present position in Smithfield to Duddeston. After several long and warm discussions it was, on March 10, decided in the negative by 31 votes against 30. The proposal that the present market should be altered at a cost not exceeding £3,000, was carried by 30 against 28.

The strike in the building trades, which was at the close of 1864 producing much misery to all concerned, was happily

terminated in March. In the settlement of this trade dispute an example was set which doubtless will be widely adopted for the future. At a meeting of masters and men, held in the Town Hall, on February 10th, under the presidency of Mr. H. Wiggin (Mayor), delegates were appointed by both sides who were empowered to draw up rules, which should be binding. In the meantime the masters withdrew the obnoxious discharge note, which had been the cause of the strike, and the dispute, after having existed nearly four months, was virtually settled. The delegates met and appointed Mr. Thomas Lloyd their chairman; rules were drawn up and mutually adopted, and thus amicably ended a strike which at one time threatened the most lamentable consequences to the building trades.

On the 7th of March, Mr. R. L. Chance, of this town, died at Northfleet House, near Gravesend, in his 83rd year. He was a member of the well-known firm of Messrs. Chance Brothers and Co., and was distinguished for his large and liberal charities to many deserving institutions which do not participate too largely in the contributions of the benevolent.

On the 10th of March, to the astonishment of almost all people, not only in the town, but in the country at large, the old-established bank of Attwood, Spooner, Marshall, and Co. suspended payment. The liabilities were a million pounds, £700,000 in deposit accounts, and £300,000 customers' balances. The statement of accounts showed a deficiency of about £340,000. A committee was formed for the purpose of taking the estate out of the Bankruptcy Court, in which they were successful. Tenders were invited for the purchase of the business, when the offer of the Joint Stock Banking Company to pay a dividend of 11s. 3d. in the pound for the assets and property was accepted. The payment of the dividends commenced with the holders of notes on July 19th, on deposit accounts July 10th, and on current accounts July 20th. The Rev. Dr. Miller especially distinguished himself in bringing about this result.

On the 17th of the same month the Penny Bank suspended payment, involving probably more widely-spread suffering than was caused by the failure of the much more extensive concern which so immediately preceded it. A meeting was called by the Mayor in the Committee Room of the Town Hall on April 28th, to consider a proposal for the relief of the depositors of sums under three pounds. A resolution to this effect, proposed by Mr. T. Avery and seconded by Mr. G. Dixon, was negatived in favour of an amendment proposed by Mr. W. Brinsley and seconded by Mr. J. A. Langford, appointing a committee to prosecute a thorough investigation into the affairs of the Bank. A full report of their labours was presented at a meeting held at the Exchange Buildings on June 28th, Mr. Thomas Lloyd in the chair. The report then presented was unanimously approved, and the committee was re-appointed for the purpose of winding up the affairs of the Bank by private arrangement, instead of leaving it under the control of the Bankruptcy Court, into which it had been unfortunately thrown by the ill-advised act of one of the depositors. The statement of accounts presented at this meeting showed in round numbers —liabilities £9,500, assets £1,700, deficiency £7,800. The estate was taken out of bankruptcy on the 21st of July; the assignees were Mr. Thomas Lloyd, Mr. John Lowe, and Mr. Brooke Smith. Another meeting was held on December 13th, Mr. Yates (Mayor) in the chair, when the committee presented their second report, showing that the realization of the assets had produced about £2,000, or a dividend of 5s. in the pound in the amount of deposits, thus leaving a deficiency of £6,000. A subscription list was opened for the purpose of paying the depositors in full.

Mr. W. Scholefield, M.P., was, during some years of its existence, President of the Bank, but a long time before its failure, he had resigned that office. Mr. T. Lloyd, as chairman of the investigation committee, wrote to Mr. Scholefield on the subject, and received the following generous reply:—

London Reform Club,
30th November, 1865.

My dear Lloyd,

I have much pleasure in enclosing a cheque for £100 towards the fund being raised for the unfortunate sufferers by the failure of the Penny Bank. Let me, however, take this opportunity of saying a word or two in correction of an error which seems to have influenced some parties, whose opinion, hostile though it may be, it is impossible not to regard with respect. It is difficult to speak with perfect accuracy of events which occurred thirteen years ago, but I may state with the confidence of conviction that I never employed any accountant at all to investigate the accounts of the Bank in 1852, or at any other time. I never received any intimation that the Bank was insolvent, or even in any temporary difficulty. I had not the remotest suspicion that such was the case—nor do I believe at this moment that, at that time, its affairs were at all embarrassed. I withdrew my name solely because I was advised that the Bank was no longer an institution of a merely philanthropic character, but was a trading concern, and as such, not one with which it was desirable that my name should be associated any longer in an honorary capacity.

I am, my dear Lloyd,
Yours always truly,
WILLIAM SCHOLEFIELD.

Thomas Lloyd, Esq., Bank.

The subscriptions enabled the committee to pay a dividend of 11s. 3d. in the pound to the unfortunate depositors.

A meeting was held on March 30, at which it was resolved that a Public Memorial to James Watt, the Father and Pioneer of Mechanical Engineering, be erected in Birmingham, the scene of his invaluable labours and triumphs in increasing the means and powers, and advancing the prosperity and civilization of mankind. The Mayor, Mr. H. Wiggin, was elected treasurer; Messrs. W. P. Marshall and Walter May, honorary secretaries; Mr. David Malins, jun., acting secretary; and a large committee was appointed to raise the necessary funds, and to provide the memorial.

On April 2, Richard Cobden died, in London, aged 60; and on April 11, the Town Council resolved unanimously "That the Council desires to join in the universal sympathy so feelingly expressed in all parts of this kingdom for the family and friends of the late lamented statesman, Richard Cobden."

On April 14, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, was assassinated in his private box at Lord's Theatre, Washington. The assassin was John Wilkes Booth, and the murder was committed in the most cold-blooded and cowardly manner. He succeeded in getting into the box, and approaching the President behind, discharged a pistol at his head. The news of this horrible crime was received with mingled feelings of indignation and sympathy in England. At a meeting of the Birmingham Town Council on May 2, the Mayor, Mr. Wiggin, moved the following resolution, which was passed with acclamation :—"That this Council desires to express to the Government of the United States its abhorrence and detestation of the atrocious crime which has deprived the American Nation of its chief. That, while manifesting its horror at the foul deed which sacrificed the life of the President at the moment when victory had crowned his efforts with success, this Council desires to record its deep and earnest sympathy with the Government and people of the United States on this great calamity." A town's meeting had been held on the same subject in the Town Hall, on April 28; and on May 17, the working men also held a public meeting and adopted an address of condolence to Mrs. Lincoln, and another of sympathy with the President and people of America. Mr. Councillor Baldwin was selected to present these addresses.

Mr. Elihu Burritt was this year appointed Consul in Birmingham for the United States, and, in May, he came to reside in the town.

On the 13th of June, a public breakfast was given at the Royal Hotel, at which the Hon. E. C. Leigh, the Rev. Dr. Storrs, and the Rev. J. Stella Martin, from America, attended and delivered addresses. Mr. E. Gem, the chairman of the Birmingham and Midland Freedmen's Aid Association, moved a resolution, declaring that the meeting rejoiced in the abolition of slavery in the United States of America, and offering a hearty welcome to their American guests. A meeting was held in the Town Hall at night, and from the report then

presented we learn that £1,500 had been raised in money, and fourteen shipments had been made of goods, directly, or through the influence of the association, valued at £5,216, making a total of £6,700.

On the 21st of July, the Very Rev. Thomas Flannagan died, in his 58th year. He had been for eight years the resident Canon at St. Chad's Cathedral; and had also for many years discharged the duties of Professor of Rhetoric and Prefect of Studies at Oscott College.

The foundation stone of Curzon Hall, in Suffolk Street, was laid on August 1, by Viscount Curzon, M.P. The Hall was opened on December 4, on which occasion the sixth annual exhibition of dogs was held.

St. David's Church, in Bissell Street, was consecrated by the Bishop of Worcester on August the 2nd. It will accomodate 1,000 worshipers, and was erected at a cost of upwards of £4,000, on land given by Mr. John Nicholls.

On August 17, Mr. James Lloyd, banker, of Showell Green, Moseley, died at Clifton. He was never a public character in the ordinary sense, though unostentatiously and with singular modesty he was constantly performing unobtrusive acts of philanthropy. The deceased was the eldest remaining son of Mr. James Lloyd, of Bingley House, and passed his early manhood in active commercial pursuits. In January, 1840, he joined the Old Bank (Taylor and Lloyd's) as a partner, and continued to give active attention to its management until it was converted into a Limited Liability Company in April, 1865, from which time he occupied a seat at the board of the new company. For the last twenty years of his life he was an active magistrate for the county of Worcester, and for many years held the office of Treasurer to the parish of Birmingham. Mr. Lloyd was one of the proprietors of the *Birmingham Daily Gazette*. He was sixty-four years of age when he died, and bequeathed the sum of £5,350 to the various local charities.

The Working Men's Industrial Exhibition was opened this year. The meeting at which the subject was first introduced

was held on October 11, 1864. After much labour and not a little misunderstanding, the Exhibition was opened at Bingley Hall on the 28th of August. The chairman (Dr. Miller) offered up prayer. After which the Prize Ode, written by Mr. Coombes Davis, for which some beautiful music was composed by Mr. T. Anderton, Mus. Bac., was performed. Lord Lyttelton then delivered the inaugural address. The exhibition remained open until the 21st of October. A tea meeting was held in the Town Hall on December 19, at which Dr. Miller presided, and Lord Leigh distributed the prizes. The report then presented contained the following information:—The weekly cost for the gas and the staff was £22 18s. 6d., which amounted on the whole to £183 8s.; the musical performances and fairy fountain cost £142 8s.; making a total of £325 16s. The minor receipts were, from cloak room, £67 7s. 7d.; the musical church, £19 6s. 8d.; the mechanical Penny Bank, £7 19s. 2d.; catalogues, £182 18s. 4d.; total, £277 11s. 9d.; or within £48 of the entire sum for attendance, cleaning, music, and fairy fountain. The admissions were:—Family tickets, 18,475; season tickets, 13; presentation tickets, 960; school children, 2,500; general admissions, including the first two days, 138,697; total 160,645. The chief receipts in addition to those named were:—Family tickets, £272 12s. 4d.; presentation tickets, £44 9s. 2d.; cash at door, £3,367 9s. 8d.; which, with some small items, amounted in the whole to £4,094 5s. The prizes awarded were 13 silver medals, 72 bronze medals, 118 certificates of merit—total 203. Total number of exhibitors, 623. There were 293 meetings of the committee held, and the following rewards had been distributed:—200 guineas amongst 17 members of the committee; 50 guineas to Mr. Kerkhoff, one of the honorary superintendents; and a silver medal to 29 others. Of the surplus, £300 were voted to the hospitals. The disposal of the remaining £700 belongs to the record of 1866.

The British Association for the Advancement of Science paid their third visit to Birmingham this year. On Wednesday, September 6, the business of the session was commenced

by a meeting of the general committee, followed by meetings of the committees of sections. In the evening the President of the Association, Mr. John Phillips, delivered one of the most important inaugural addresses which the association, so rich in this respect, can boast. On Thursday morning the various sections met, at eleven o'clock, for the transaction of business, in the following order and places:—A., Mathematical and Physical Science, King Edward's School, Classical School; B., Chemical Science, King Edward's School, English School; C., Geology, Midland Institute and Free Library, Lending Library, ground floor; D., Zoology and Botany, Midland Institute and Free Library, Gallery of Art; D. (sub-section) Physiology, Midland Institute and Free Library, Institute Theatre; E., Geography and Ethnology, Midland Institute and Free Library, Reference Library, first floor; F., Economic Science and Statistics, Friends' Meeting House and School Room, Meeting House; G., Mechanical Science, Friends' Meeting House and School Room. The President of each section delivered an opening address. On Thursday night there was a soirée or conversazione in the Town Hall, at which scientific instruments and other articles of interest were exhibited. On Friday evening Mr. J. B. Jukes delivered a lecture in the Town Hall on the "Probabilities as to the Position and the Extent of the Coal Measures beneath the Red Rocks of the Midland Counties." Saturday was a delightful day; the day of the excursions. Various parties of pleasure-and-knowledge-seeking people (including a large number of ladies) visited Wroxeter and Shrewsbury, Coventry and Kenilworth, Worcester and Malvern, and Warwick and Stratford-on-Avon. On Monday the Mayor entertained the President and about four hundred guests at luncheon in the Town Hall; on the evening of the same day there was a conversazione at the rooms of the Society of Artists. At the final committee meeting, held in the Midland Institute on the afternoon of September 13, when a report was presented, and £2,135 was granted for the promotion of scientific inquiry. It was decided that the meeting for 1866 should

be held at Nottingham. The following is the list of the number of tickets issued, viz:—Old life members, 290; new life members, 44; old annual members, 216; new annual members, 148; associates, 767; ladies' tickets, 508; and 23 foreigners, making the total number of members, 1,996; the amount received was £2,227. The meeting was one of the most successful that the association had ever held.

This meeting "led to the formation of a Local Industries' Committee, for the purpose of compiling a series of reports on the numerous and varied products of the Midland Hardware District, of which Birmingham is the most important, and practically, the central town." Mr. S. Timmins was the chairman of this committee, and was also the editor of the admirable volume which was published in the following year (1866). This work is entitled "The Resources, Products, and Industrial History of Birmingham, and the Midland Hardware District: a Series of Reports, collected of the Local Industries' Committee of the British Association at Birmingham, in 1865." The book thus produced is a most valuable contribution to the history of English industries, and shows how thoroughly Birmingham merits the honour given to the town by Burke, when he designated it the "Toy-shop of Europe." The editor modestly says:—

> The volume may fail in giving an adequate idea of the extent and variety of our local trades, but it will have done something to show that within a radius of thirty miles of Birmingham nearly the whole of the hardware wants of the world are practically supplied. The coal and iron of Staffordshire—the chemical products, glass and alkalis and soap of Smethwick—the metal works in infinite variety which Birmingham produces, from the costliest plate and jewellery down to the commonest gilt toys—the engines and machinery of every description exported to all parts of the world—every class of articles being produced, from the very cheapest to the very best—can be only imperfectly described even in the seven hundred pages of this work."

The work has done, what had never been done before. In its pages are "collected and presented" a "large and important mass of industrial facts," which will prove of great value to the future historian.

Mr. W. Kenrick and Mr. R. F. Martineau were the honorary secretaries to the committee. Dr. Sebastian Evans gave great assistance to the editor, and the papers contributed Mr. W. C. Aitken deserve special mention, alike for their number, importance, fulness of information, and the exhaustive treatment of his subjects. His paper on the Brass Trade alone occupied upwards of 150 pages of the volume, and is as interesting in manner as it is valuable in matter.

Early in September, the following interesting paragraph was published in the *Birmingham Daily Post*:—

Those who pass the house at the corner of the Minories and the 'Old Square,' where the late Mr. Scholefield lived, will have noticed that within the last few days a handsome tablet has been inserted over the door. This tablet is intended as a memorial of the frequent visits made by Dr. Johnson to his old friend, Mr. Hector, who lived in the house till nearly the end of the last century. As a graceful tribute to the memory of Johnson and his life-long friend, and as a local memorial of a house which has been 'dignified by wisdom, bravery, and virtue,' this tablet deserves special mention. The inscription upon it is:—'Here, in this house, Samuel Johnson was the Guest, Edmund Hector was the Host. Of this Host this Guest has written, 'Hector was likewise an old friend, and the only companion of my childhood who passed through the school with me. We have always loved one another.' This stone, by leave of the owner of the house, William Scholefield, Esq., M.P., was put up by the members of 'Our Shakspeare Club,' of Birmingham, 1865. Our local readers will remember that the house in the Square, now called Priory House, was the one where Johnson and Boswell lived with Mr. Lloyd, when the Baskerville edition of 'Barclay's Apology' was produced and discussed; and that at the back of that house, on the site now occupied by the Friend's Schools, the first experiment of 'spinning by rollers' was tried by Paul and Wyatt, more than a century ago, and long before the days of Arkwright's invention.

On the 14th of September, in the 76th year of his age, died Mr. William Westley Richards, the head of the well-known firm of Westley Richards and Co., of High Street, Birmingham. Mr. Richards was a Conservative in politics, but took very little part in public affairs of late years. He was an earnest supporter of all the educational institutions of the town.

On September 20, the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the New Masonic Hall and Club Buildings, in New Street, was performed with Masonic honours by Lord Leigh, the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master.

On the 2nd of October the question of the right of tenants living in compound houses voting for the election of members of the Town Council was again tried. A large number of such persons had been placed on the burgess list for St. Peter's Ward, 380 of which were objected to. These objections, with a few exceptions, were sustained, being nearly the whole number struck off. This was on a small scale a repetition of a similar attempt in 1864, when 7,000 names placed on the burgess list by the overseers were struck off by the Mayor's Court.

During the year a second Birmingham life boat, called the *James Pearce*, was purchased. As this boat was to be stationed at Caistor, on the Norfolk coast, the committee appointed a deputation, consisting of the Mayor, Mr. James Pearce (after whom, as the original suggestor of the charity, the boat was named), Mr. H. Fulford, the honorary secretary, Mr. R. Foreshew, and Mr. J. A. Langford, to present the boat to the Royal Institution at Yarmouth. The Mayor was unable to attend, and the interesting ceremony was performed by the last-named gentleman. The boat was christened by Miss Steward, the daughter of the Mayor of Yarmouth, and launched on the 25th of October. On the way to her destination at Caistor the crew of the new boat rescued a vessel off the Crosby Sands; and since the presentation took place, the boat has been instrumental in saving a large number of shipwrecked sailors, sa well as a large amount of property.

In October the Lord Chancellor appointed the following gentlemen additional Justices of the Peace in the borough :— T. Avery, H. R. Cooksey, G. Goodrick, J. D. Goodman, E. Gwyther, J. Graham, J. Jaffray, H. Manton, J. B. Payn, and H. Wiggin.

On November 9 the usual election of Mayor took place. There were two candidates, Mr. E. Yates and Mr. J. Graham.

The former was elected by a majority of 6; 34 voting for Mr. Yates and 28 for Mr. Graham.

The Cattle, Poultry, and Dog Shows were held this year on December 4, 5, 6, and 7, the total number of visitors to the Cattle and Poultry show was 41,841; the receipts at the door, £934; for the sale of poultry £975 2s. 6d. The admissions to the Dog Show were 23,413; receipts at the door, £1,157 14s.; from sale of dogs, £418 11s.

On the 18th of December a very influential meeting was held, under the presidency of the Mayor, Mr. E. Yates, at which it was resolved to form a limited liability company for the purpose of providing Birmingham with a gymnasium, similar to the one recently opened in Liverpool.

Two institutions, which ought to have secured popular support, failed to do so. The Working Men's Club, which was commenced with so much promise and hope, had to be abandoned. Every attempt was tried, but after considerable loss, principally borne by Mr. George Dixon, the friend of every movement for the education and elevation of the working classes, the promoters had to close its doors. The Birmingham Dining Halls were also unsuccessful. The accounts presented at the annual meeting of the company on June 5th showed a loss of £174 2s. 3d. on the year's working.

In January, 1866, Mr. M. D. Hill resigned the office of Recorder of the borough. This able lawyer and earnest philanthropist had discharged the duties of that important office for nearly twenty-seven years. He was our first Recorder, and in his letter to the Mayor announcing his resignation, he very gracefully alluded to the many and important improvements which had taken place in the town during that long period. In recognition of his valuable services, the Corporation commissioned Mr. Peter Hollins to execute a marble bust of Mr. Hill, to be placed in the Art Gallery. Mr. A. R. Adams, Q.C., was appointed his successor.

On February 15, the Rev. Dr. Miller announced to his congregation that Earl Russell had appointed him to the

Crown Living of Greenwich, which appointment he had accepted. For twenty-five years the Doctor had been Rector of St. Martin's Church, and his departure was marked by a series of presentations unexampled in our local history. On March 13, a public meeting was held for the purpose of raising a public testimonial to him; on April 10, the Congregation of the Parish Church held a *soirée* in honour of their clergyman, and on the 25th, the various testimonials were presented in the Town Hall. The members of his Church gave a silver salver, a tea service, a cake basket, and a purse containing 600 guineas; the town testimonial was a purse of £1,000. Presentations were also made by the Rifle Corps, the Clergy, Working Men, the two Hospitals, and other public bodies.

On the 25th of February, the first appearance of the Cattle Plague in Birmingham was reported by the inspectors. It occurred in one of a herd of seven cows in Lawley Street. The diseased animal was at once killed.

On March 8, died Mr. William Barlow, aged 66 years. The deceased had held the office of Clerk to the Magistrates for twenty-eight years, and was esteemed and respected by all who knew him.

On May 14, a meeting of the Committee of the Working Men's Exhibition was held, at which the surplus sums were disposed of in the following manner:—General Hospital, £50; Queen's Hospital, £200, as a mark of the high regard of the Committee for Dr. Lloyd, for the services rendered them by him; Children's Hospital, £75, as a mark of esteem for the services rendered by the Rev. Dr. Miller to the Committee; Lying-in Hospital, £25; Blind Asylum, £50; Orthopœdic Institution, £50; Penny Bank Relief Fund, as a mark of esteem for Mr. Thomas Lloyd, £100; the Sanatorium, £50.

The Chinese Commissioner, Pin-Ta-Jeu, accompanied by his suite, arrived in Birmingham on June 7, and in the evening was entertained, by the Mayor, at the Queen's Hotel. On the 8th and 9th the illustrious strangers paid a visit to some of the principal manufactories of the town.

On June 8, an adjourned meeting of the shareholders of the Birmingham Dining Halls Company, Limited, was held, and a resolution passed for its voluntary winding up. Of the original capital of the company, £2,800 had been paid; the loss in about three years amounted to £1,400.

On the 18th, 19th, and 20th, was paid the dividend to the depositors in the Penny Bank. The estate yielded £1,808 12s. 9d., producing only a dividend of 4s. 3½d. in the pound. By the exertions of the committee, of which Mr. Thos. Lloyd was chairman and treasurer, and Mr. J. A. Langford, hon. sec., a subscription, amounting to £2,984 15s. 9d. was obtained, raising the dividend actually paid to 11s. 6d. in the pound. Of this sum, the working men's committee obtained £361 10s. 8d.

On July 14, the commercial and trading parts of the town were shaken by the announcement of the stoppage of the Birmingham Banking Company, owing, as was stated in the advertisement, "to gross past mismanagement recently discovered." This bank was established in 1829; the capital was fixed at £500,000., in 10,000 shares of £50 each, of which only £5 per share was at first called up. The capital was afterwards increased £600,000, and of this sum £275,000 had been paid. The statement of accounts prepared by Mr. Laundy, the official liquidator, and presented at a meeting of the shareholders, showed assets to the amount of £2,000,000, and liabilities to £1,800,000. An investigation committee was appointed to inquire into the concerns and the management of the Bank, and at the meeting at which the balance sheet was presented, a scheme for establishing a new joint-stock banking company, limited, was adopted, and a provisional committee appointed. This new bank has since been opened under the title of the Birmingham Banking Company, Limited.

On September the 27th, a meeting of the clergy and the laity of the Church of England, called by the Mayor, was held in the committee room of the Town Hall. A resolution in favour of holding the Church Congress of 1867 in

Birmingham, was unanimously passed; and a deputation consisting of the Mayor, the Rural Dean, the Rev. Dr. Wilkinson, Colonel Mason, Mr. C. Ratcliff, and Mr. T. C. S. Kynnersley, was appointed to wait upon the Bishop of the Diocese to request his concurrence, and in the event of the Congress being held in the town, to request his Lordship to act as president, At a meeting on October 5th, the deputation reported that the Bishop declined the honour, and the project of the Church Congress thus fell through.

On September 28th, in his 85th year, died that well-known, eccentric and genial old man, Mr. James Guidney, better known as Jemmy the Rockman. On the 29th, the *Journal* published the following sketch of this local eccentric:—

Died, yesterday afternoon, at No. 18, Communication Row, Mr. James Guidney, at the age of 84 years. These few words chronicle the departure from amongst us of a man who for many years has been a sort of institution in Birmingham, and, therefore, we may be pardoned if to this brief chronicle we append a few facts with regard to the chequered career of a somewhat extraordinary man. For several years he was an inhabitant of the town, and there are few among us who, on hearing the name of 'Jemmy the Rockman,' do not see in their minds eye, the old man, as he was wont to walk about our streets—his shrunken figure clad in an old world garb, his not unintelligent face, partly covered by a profusion of grey beard, and crowned with silvery hairs, and the constantly iterated cry of 'Jemmy,' by which he sought to attract attention to him and his wares, by the sale of which he, up to the last, earned a livlihood, scanty enough, indeed, but sweetened by the consciousness that it was not charity. During many years of his residence in Birmingham, Jemmy was rather celebrated as a vendor of a confection which he assured was 'good for cough or cold,' and of which, whatever may have been or not its curative powers, he managed to sell a considerable quantity. Some years ago, finding this trade falling off, he turned his attention to a new line of business, and commenced the sale of lead pencils and autobiographies of himself. From one of these latter which lies before us, we learn that he was born on the 1st of September, 1782, at Norwich, and that after distinguishing himself at school as a very talented knitter of socks, and commencing his commercial career as a vendor of milk and apples, he, when fifteen years of age, enlisted as a drummer boy in the 48th Northamptonshire regiment of the line. After knocking about with his regiment in different parts of England for some time, he went abroad, successively visiting Gibraltar,

Minorca, Leghorn, and Malta, at which latter place he remained some time, and lost an eye, from ophthalmia. The young man seems at this period to have been of a very superstitious turn of mind, and while at Malta there occurred a circumstance which will account for the presence on his face of the beard he wore through life. He shall tell the story in his own words. 'While here a strange circumstance happened to James Guidney. He was on his way to the Catholic Church one morning in May, 1802, when a lamb suddenly appeared before him, and began to play with him. After walking beside it for some distance, he declares that it turned round and stood in his way, and assuming the form of a man, addressed him by name, commanding him for the future to wear a beard. He then put his hand on his head and his face, to satisfy himself that he was not deceived, and distinctly feeling the flesh of a man, a cold perspiration came over him. It afterwards reassumed the shape of a lamb. He immediately went back to tell his comrades of this singular circumstance, and the lamb accompanied him as far as the place he first saw it, and then disappeared.'

In 1803 the regiment to which Jemmy belonged was ordered back to England, and after remaining in his own country for some time he again went abroad to Gibraltar, where he remained until 1807, in which year he, with the rest of the regiment, was ordered, as he says, to an uninhabited island off the coast of Africa, called Paraigil, in order to prevent the Spanish market-boats from supplying the Spanish army (then lying at Conta) with provisions. Passing over the seeming improbability of any large quantity of provisions, unless the Spanish army happened to be herbaceous animals, being obtained from an uninhabited island, we come to the fact that Jemmy here had a narrow escape, in the first place from falling into the hands of hostile natives on a neighbouring coast, and in the second, from drowning. Having escaped these two dangers, 'Jemmy' saw several years in service in different parts of the world; and in July, 1814, left the army with a pension of a shilling a day, on his regiment being disbanded. Following the usual course of soldiers, leaving the service, he, at that time being thirty-two years of age, became a gentleman's servant, and two years after married his first wife, and commenced his perigrinations as a hawker, an occupation which he pursued until the time of his death, or until old age and accumulating infirmaties rendered it impossible. Before leaving the story of his military life, it may be remarked that the observations he made about the various countries in which he travelled, and which are embodied in his autobiography, though not remarkable as literary composition, are distinguished by natural ability, shrewdness, and good sense. Through life of a singularly independent turn of mind, he in 1824, finding that he could maintain himself without it, gave up his pension, and ever afterwards maintained himself by his own exertions. After traversing

pretty much the whole country for a few years, he, in the year 1825, reached Birmingham, where he settled, and where, during a period approaching to nearly half a century, he has been one of the best known of our local characters. For some time past he had been ailing, and on Thursday week took to his bed, from which he never rose. His death was due not to any specific ailment, but to the fact that, having lived to a ripe old age, his lamp of life having burnt down to the wick, flickered for a while and then went out. Such is a brief sketch of the life of a kindly-hearted old man, who having spent forty years of an active life in different parts of the world, settled in Birmingham, where he lived to see pretty nearly two generations of men come and go, and at last took his own departure for 'that bourne whence no traveller returns,' leaving a blank which will probably never be filled and a name which will be always remembered with kindly feeling by the young and old of all classes of our fellow-townsmen.

On November 9, the Town Council elected Mr. George Dixon Mayor for the ensuing year.

The new Mayor began his official year by a work of beneficence. A disastrous fire at Quebec had rendered a large number of persons houseless at the beginning of the Canadian winter. A meeting, convened by Mr. Dixon, was held on the 19th, to adopt measures for the relief of the sufferers; a committee was elected, and subscription lists opened, and upwards of £260 were subscribed at the meeting; and on the 23rd, the Mayor of Quebec was authorized to draw on Lloyd's Banking Company for £500, the first instalment of the Birmingham subscription.

The annual Cattle, Poultry, and Dog Shows were held this year on December 3, 4, 5, and 6; the result being a very large decrease in returns as compared with any preceding year since the shows had been held. The total number of admissions was only 20,433; in 1865, the number was 41,841. the total receipts at the door were £647, as compared with £934. This decline was principally caused by the cattle plague. The very cold weather during the four days of the exhibition no doubt also contributed to this result. The sale of poultry was in excess of the preceding year, the total amount realized being £1,408 10s.; in 1865 it was £996 17s. 6d. The visitors to the Dog Show numbered 19,099; the

receipts at the door were £949 18s. 11d.; and from sales, £441 10s.

On December 12, a terrible colliery explosion took place in the Oaks Colliery, near Barnsley, by which three hundred and forty persons lost their lives. On the 13th another fatal explosion occurred at Talk-o'-the-Hill, North Staffordshire, by which eighty-five persons were killed. A meeting was held in the Town Hall on the 21st, for the purpose of raising funds for the relief of the sufferers, when £426 were subscribed.

The first public event of the year 1867, was also one of benevolence. In consequence of the extreme severity of the weather, the distress in the town far exceeded the power of the ordinary means to provide sufficient relief. On January 14, the Mayor, Mr. George Dixon, convened a meeting to consider what measures should be taken to alleviate the distress. A large committee was appointed, of which Mr. Dixon was elected treasurer, and Mr. J. A. Langford honorary secretary. The report of the work done was presented to a meeting of the subscribers, held on June 11, which furnishes the following history of this beneficent work:—

The first meeting to take steps for raising a fund for the relief of the distressed poor during the severe frost was convened by the Mayor on the 14th of January, at which a committee was appointed, and the Mayor consented to act as treasurer, and Mr. J. A. Langford as honorary secretary; and the next morning not only were funds at the disposal of your committee, but through the prompt energy of Mr. Gough, the soup kitchen of the Town Hall was brought into operation for the supply of soup and bread. It is gratifying to be able to report that, although no appeal was made beyond the holding of the public meeting referred to, the amount of contributions increased day by day so long as the frost lasted; the donations of the first day being £135, and of the last day £240. After the thaw had set in contributions continued to be made, but to a smaller extent.

Kind of Relief.—It was decided at the meeting that the relief should be administered in soup, bread, and coal, and by tickets for 1lb. of bread and 1 pint of soup each, the number of such tickets to be given in proportion to the number of persons in the family to be relieved.

Mode of Allotment.—The tickets were allotted to the various clergymen of the parishes in proportion to the number of persons contained

in their parish, the poorer parishes having a larger number, and of the number allotted to each clergyman two-thirds were applied to the general demands of the parish, irrespective of sectarian distinctions, and one-third to the Roman Catholic clergy and Dissenting ministers. This plan was somewhat modified by the various sub-committees where any peculiar circumstances had to be considered. St. John's District Committee made the allotment in proportion to the number of families in the parish belonging to each denomination. St. George's by special vote. The Deritend Committee allotted 8-16ths to the Church of England clergy, 3-16ths to the Roman Catholic clergy, and 5-16ths to the Dissenting ministers; the number to each parish being in proportion to the population.

Committees.—As speedily as possible arrangements were made for opening soup kitchens in various parts of the town, and the following district committees were appointed to make the distribution. The central committee, which met daily at the Town Hall, consisted of the Rev. C. T. Wilkinson (rector of St. Thomas's), chairman; the Rev. G. Pettitt (incumbent of St. Jude's), the Rev. A. Ward (Wesleyan), the Rev. J. Sherlock and the Rev. Canon O'Sullivan (Roman Catholics), the Rev. M. Hill (town mission), and distributed in the parishes of St. James's, Edgbaston Parish Church, St. Martin's, St. Thomas's, St. Luke's, St. David's, St. Bartholomew's, Immanuel, St. Mary's, Christ Church, St. Phillip's, St. Jude's, St. Peter's, Bishop Ryder's, All Saints' (part), St. George's, Edgbaston; total population, 150,000. St. John's district committee, the meetings of which were held daily at St. John's schoolroom, consisted of the Rev. R. Mooyaart (incumbent of St. John's, Ladywood), chairman; the Rev. D. Ledsam (incumbent of St. Mark's), the Rev. S. W. Winter (incumbent of St. Barnabas'), the Rev. E. Gratton (Methodist New Connection), the Rev. J. Watson (Wesleyan), the Rev. — Garratt, the Rev. G. B. Johnson (Congregational), Mr. E. Myers (Church of the Saviour), and distributed in the parishes of St. John's, St. Mark's, St. Barnabas', All Saints' (part); population, 36,000. St. George's district committee, which met at St. George's schools, consisted of the Rev. S. Thornton (rector of St. George's) chairman; the Rev. P. Reynolds (incumbent of St. Stephen's), the Rev. H. T. Breay (incumbent of St. Matthias), the Rev. J. B. Gabriel (incumbent of All Saints'), the Rev. W. F. Callaway (Congregational), the Rev. S. Coley (Wesleyan), the Rev. J. Pearson (Wesleyan), Rev. C. Vince, Rev. J. Davies (Baptist), Rev. J. P. Trenor (Roman Catholic), Rev. T. Smith (New Connexion), Mr. R. R. Rodgers (New Jerusalem Church), Messrs. J. S. Wright, J. Ward, and Morris, and distributed in the parishes of St. George's, St. Paul's, St. Matthias', St. Stephen's, All Saints' (part); population, 70,000. The St. Matthew's district committee, which met at St. Matthew's Schools, consisted of the Rev. J. H. Scowcroft (incumbent of St. Matthew's), chairman; the Rev. R. Stephenson (incumbent of St. James's, Ashted), the Rev. H. C. Millward (incumbent of St. Clement's),

the Rev. R. J. T. Hawksley (Wesleyan), the Rev. S. Chapman (Baptist), the Rev. W. Wright (Primitive Methodist), Mr. G. Ingall (Congregational), and distributed in the parishes of St. Matthew's, St. James's, Ashted; St. Clement's; population, 41,000. The Deritend district committee, which met at the rooms of the Deritend Visiting Society, consisted of the Rev. W. B. Smith (chaplain of St. John's, Deritend), chairman; the Rev. Dr. Oldknow (incumbent of Holy Trinity), the Rev. C. Heaven (curate of St. Andrew's), the Rev. J. Dowling (Roman Catholic), the Rev. S. T. Allen (Congregational), the Rev. J. Harrison, the Rev. L. Parsons (Baptists), the Rev. G. Fallows (Wesleyan), the Rev. T. Pugh (Primitive Methodist), the Rev. M. Hill (Town Mission), Mr. B. Worton (Congregational), Messrs. Councillor Baker, J. R. Boyce, W. G. Ingall, J. Jones, jun., W. H. Greening, secretary, and distributed in the parishes of Holy Trinity, St. Andrew's, and the hamlet of Deritend; population 32,000.

Grants were made to the committees as the funds in hand would permit, and were as follows:—January 15th, £50 per day; January 18th, at the rate of 6s. per day to every thousand of the population in each district; January 21st, at the rate of 7s. 6d. per day to every thousand of the population in each district; January 26th, at the rate of 5s. 6d. per day to every thousand of the population in each district. A special grant of £2 per day was made from January 21st to the Sparkbrook Soup Kitchen. From January 18th one-eighth of the amount of these grants was decided to be distributed in coal.

The distribution took place upon the following days:—

	Soup, Bread, and Coal.	Bread and Coal only.
Town Hall	Jan. 15th to 26th	Jan. 28th to Feb. 2nd.
St. John's, Ladywood	Jan. 21st to 28th	Jan. 29th to Feb. 2nd.
St. George's	Jan. 18th to 26th	Jan. 28th to Feb. 2nd.
St. Matthew's	Jan. 15th to 26th	Jan. 28th to Feb. 2nd.
Deritend	Jan. 21st to 28th	Jan. 29th to Feb. 2nd.

The quantity distributed by each committee was as follows:—

	Soup. No. of pints.	Bread. No. of lbs.	Coal. Cwts.	
Town Hall	20,800	57,200	800	(Mr. Stokes).
			800	(Mr. W. H. Dixon).
			1,970	(General Fund).
St. John's, Ladywood	4,400	8,020	1,563	
St. George's	10,100	21,136	3,432	
St. Matthew's	6,184	11,408	885	
Deritend	4,600	8,840	657	
Total	46,084	106,604	10,107	

Cost of each Article.—The average cost of the soup was about 1¾d. per pint; of the bread 7¼d. per 4lbs. loaf; and of the coal 8d. per cwt.; and the average amount of the expenses of making and distributing the soup was 19⅝ per cent of the net cost.

Amount Contributed.—The total amount contributed to the fund was £2,060 14s. 4d., of which £1,613 2s. 9d. has been expended, leaving a balance in hand of £447 11s. 7d., which your committee recommend should be invested in the names of trustees, who should be authorised to place it at the disposal of the Mayor for the time being on the recurrence of a similar emergency, and then, with the particulars herein contained, the town would be enabled at once to act in meeting the wants of the needy poor.

Remarks.—*As to the kind of Relief*: The soup and bread seem to have given general satisfaction, and although one or two have expressed an opinion that relief of other kinds might at such times be dispensed with advantage, especially when it has to be given for any length of time; yet, on the whole, it seems to be admitted that the kind of relief given was most satisfactory. The coal tickets were much sought for by the poor.

As to the Mode of Distribution.—Your committee think the mode adopted was best adapted for reaching the needy and deserving cases; and was most calculated to prevent imposition.

George Dixon (Mayor), Treasurer.
J. A. Langford, Hon. Secretary.

On January 25, the Mayor transmitted to the relief committee, at Quebec, authority to draw on him for a further sum of £68, being the balance of the Birmingham subscription. The total amount raised was £888 1s. 6d., of which sum £838 were added to the fund, the expenses having been only £50 1s. 6d.

In January, the committee of the Church Extension Society proposed a scheme for the erection of eight new churches in the town at a cost of £50,000. At the annual meeting of the society, held on the 29th, under the presidency of the Bishop, the financial *status quo* was given as follows:—In the bank, £3,040 17s. 8d.; paid since December 31, £556 5s.; half of the grant to Sparkbrook Church (£1,112 10s.) when paid, would leave £2,484 12s. 8d.; grant to St. Thomas's when paid, would leave £1,043 7s. 8d.; when the other half of the Sparkbrook grant was paid, the

balance would be £487 2s. 8d.; and this amount would be increased by the arrears due to £1,341 3s. 2d. The scheme and the appeal of the committee were approved by the meeting.

At a special meeting of the Town Council, held January 29, the Mayor read the following letter:—

7, Cannon Street, Birmingham,
26th January, 1867.

Dear Mr. Mayor,

We send you herewith a copy of the deed of trust of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Fund, in the Wolverhampton Orphan Asylum. You will recollect that Miss Ryland, of Barford Hill, informed you of her intention of founding this trust, and of naming the Mayor of Birmingham as one of the trustees, to which you kindly assented. You will find by the provisions of the deed, that during Miss Ryland's life-time the trustees have no duties to perform, and that after her death they will have the nomination of six boys for admission to the Asylum; that the trustees are to hold their meetings in Birmingham, which are to be convened by the Mayor of Birmingham, and that all nominations are to be made by the trustees in assembly. In order to insure the selections of the most worthy candidates, the Secretary of the Institution is required to advertise (in newspapers in Birmingham and Warwick) the vacancies as they occur. You will also observe that the trustees are to give a preference in their selection—first, to boys whose fathers have been parishioners of Birmingham, or residents in the Borough of Birmingham for two years; next, to boys residing in the parish of Sherborne, in the county of Warwick; and, lastly, to boys residing in other parts of the county.

We are, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
RYLAND AND MARTINEAU.

George Dixon, Esq.,
Mayor of Birmingham.

On February 4, a meeting was held on the invitation of the Mayor to devise the best means of securing contributions to the Art Gallery. Mr. Dixon moved:—

That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that a Society should be formed for the purpose of raising a fund to be expended in the purchase of pictures for exhibition in the town, to be presented to the Art Gallery.

This was seconded by Mr. Peter Hollins; but on the suggestion of Mr. John Jaffray, the following resolution was passed:—

That it is desirable to form an Association, having for its object the acquisition of works of art, for presentation to the Corporation Art Gallery, and that a committee be appointed to consider the best means of accomplishing that object.

A very destructive fire occurred at Messrs. Pattison's, George Street West, on March 14, causing damage to the amount of £15,000.

Mr. William Roberts died at Harborne, on March 26, in his 80th year. The following sketch of this local worthy appeared in the *Birmingham Journal*, of the 30th:—

The grave ought not to close over the remains of our late highly-esteemed townsman, Mr. William Roberts, without some notice, however brief and inadequate, of a man remarkable in many ways, more particularly for his attachment to the fine arts, and for his great skill as a practitioner in the art which he loved, and which engrossed his affections from an early period to the close of a life of eighty years.

Mr. Roberts, if we mistake not, was born at or near York. He was destined to commercial pursuits, and in the course of time entered into partnership with the late Mr. Wilmot, of Summer Row, in this town. The firm of 'Wilmot and Roberts' was for many years known to most people in Birmingham, engaged in business; and their mercantile establishment stood as high as any in public estimation. Mr. Wilmot dying, the business, for a number of years, has been carried on successfully by Mr. Roberts alone. We need not say a word as to the high character which that establishment has maintained for a very long period throughout the country, nor as to the high principle and integrity of him who was its head.

Mr. Roberts was from his youth always fond of painting, and of the society of painters. His business pursuits frequently took him to Norwich, and there he formed an acquaintance with an artist whose productions he greatly admired, and whose name has now become famous—John Crome. Mr. Roberts also formed an intimacy with another artist of remarkable ability, residing in Norwich at that time—Cotman, the friend, and in some respects the model of Turner. Two of Cotman's water-colour drawings may be seen in our present Exhibition in New Street.

The elder Stark and Vincent (pupils of Crome), with other artists of Norwich, since distinguished, were among the friends of Mr. Roberts at that time; their conversation and the study of their works, contributed

to form his taste and develope his ability as an artist. Many were the anecdotes, amusing and instructive, which Mr. Roberts used to narrate of these men and their doings, and to which his friends have many a time listened with delighted attention. Still further to improve himself, Mr. Roberts took lessons from the celebrated De Wint, whose genius he reverenced, and whose works he always extolled. Subsequently he became acquainted with a still greater artist—David Cox; acquaintance ripened into intimacy, and the two remained fast friends until the death of the latter in 1859. The works of David Cox exercised a powerful influence in forming the style of Mr. Roberts, whose drawings and pictures very much resemble those of Mr. Cox, and are not unfrequently mistaken for the works of that artist. The genius of the two men was very much akin. Both took broad and grand views of nature, loved similar scenes and effects, and recorded them on paper or canvass with bold and suggestive strokes of the pencil. The productions of Mr. Roberts usually exhibit extraordinary ability, and it has often been remarked that had circumstances compelled him in early life to take up the profession of an artist, he must have attained to a high and distinguished position. With progress of the fine arts in Birmingham, Mr. Roberts has been identified from a very early period. He contributed some pictures to the first exhibition of works of art that, we believe, was ever opened in this town, and which was held in a room behind the Fire Office, in Union Street. He joined the few artists residing in Birmingham at that time, in making this exhibition, and became a member of the society then formed. He has contributed several of his latest works to the Exhibition of Water-colour Drawings, open at the present time in New Street—works of considerable merit—which we are grieved he has not lived long enough to see among the rest. The late David Cox had a high opinion of the artistic powers of Mr. Roberts, and of his information on all matters pertaining to the practice of painting in oil. It is a fact that he decided on coming from London to reside at Harborne, in order to be near his friend Roberts, from whom he hoped to receive such hints on the *modus operandi* of painting in oil as would enable him to master the difficulties attending that branch of the art, to which he was desirous of devoting his remaining years. We all know with what success the object was accomplished.

The friends, who painted together, who rambled over the country in company, seeking subjects for the pencil, who spent many years of their lives in each other's society, or in the immediate neighbourhood of each other, cherishing a mutual and most affectionate regard—will not rest far apart. To-day (Saturday) the mortal remains of William Roberts will be laid near those of David Cox, in Harborne Churchyard; and the same hallowed soil will enclose all that is left of two men of kindred genius, who have left behind them many warm and attached friends, who esteemed them living, and lament them dead.

Mr. Alfred Mellon, a musician of more than local fame, died on March 28:—

The deceased, who had not attained his 50th year, was the son of Mr. Mellon, now of New Street, formerly of Upper Temple Street. At a very early age he developed a taste and talent for music which, in spite of difficulties that would have daunted many an older youth than himself, he found time to cultivate assiduously. Finding, at last, that his predilections and aptitudes lay decidedly in that direction, and that it was of no use to resort further to measures for his repression, his family did their best to aid him in his youthful efforts, and he speedily justified their confidence in him. Before long his abilities were recognized by the then leader of the orchestra at the Theatre Royal, of which Mr. M. H. Simpson, sen., was the manager, and occasionally he was permitted to appear upon the stage between the pieces to play solos. By and by he was taken into the orchestra, and, while a mere youth, was promoted to the important position of *repetiteur*. This post he occupied about five years. Somewhere about this time, Miss Woolgar became a member of the stock company, and an affection sprung up between her and the young musician, which subsequently led to matrimony. In 1842 Miss Woolgar accepted an engagement at the Adelphi Theatre, London, and before long Mr. Mellon was installed musical director there, a post which he filled under the successive managements of Mr. Yates and Mr. Webster. While holding this position, he married Miss Woolgar, then as now, the popular favourite of that theatre. His talent as a musical conductor soon became known, and when he left the Adelphi he took his seat as a second conductor at the Italian Opera, under Mr. Costa. His popularity was very great throughout the country, particularly at the great musical festivals, and also in London where he organized several successful series of promenade concerts. He conducted the English Opera under the Pyne and Harrison management, and latterly was the lessee of Covent Garden during the winter session. In one character only did Mr. Mellon ever appear as an actor—that of Count Rodolpho, in 'Somnambula.' He has played that part on the boards of the Birmingham Theatre Royal for his own benefit and for the benefit of Miss Jane Coveney, and at the Stourbridge Theatre he once played it, when Mr. Harry Reeves, brother of Mr. Sims Reeves, was the *Elvino*. At the time of his death he was surrounded by a circle of attached friends, for he was as much respected in private life as he was admired in public life.

On the 20th of May, a public meeting was held to take into consideration the best means of eliciting a response to Miss Ryland's "unparalleled act of munificence" in contributing £10,000 for church building in Birmingham. Between

£600 and £700 were announced at the meeting, and after some discussion the following resolutions were adopted:—

1.—That it is desirable to form parochial and congregational associations in aid of the Birmingham Church Extension Society; and 2.—That it is advisable to appoint a particular Sunday in the year for simultaneous sermons and collections in aid of its funds, and that the last Sunday in April be recommended for that purpose.

On the 29th of May, Mr. John Hardman died at Bristol in his 56th year:—

His father was one of the oldest manufacturers of this town engaged in the trade of button making. Mr. Hardman succeeded to the business, then carried on in Paradise Street, and conducted it for some years; but he is better known as the reviver of the art of metal working and glass painting, according to true principles. An accidental interview, in the year 1837, with the late Mr. A. W. Pugin, at that time Professor of Architecture at Oscott College, resulted in Mr. Hardman's entering into the views entertained by the distinguished architect, and a friendship began which terminated only with the life of Mr. Pugin. Imbued with a kindred spirit of enthusiasm to that which animated his famous associate, Mr. Hardman entered thoroughly into the views of Pugin, and was the medium by which the magnificent conceptions of the latter were realized. With Mr. Hardman it was a labour of love—he spared neither time nor money in effecting the end he so earnestly desired to achieve. For that purpose, he collected together, taught, and trained skilful workers in gold, silver, iron, and brass; he experimented on all the mediæval processes of metal work—tempering, beating, enamelling, stone-setting, and niello—all of these arts, which were practically obsolete at the period when he commenced his ladours. After many difficulties, patiently encountered, though at great cost of time and money, Mr. Hardman, by the perfection of his workmanship, realized the fondest dreams of his friend and associate, Mr. Pugin. In stained glass Mr. Hardman was equally successful, achieving an equal degree of excellence in works in that material, which realized all the solemnity and harmony of colour, peculiarity of design, form and expression which distinguishes the glass of the best mediæval artists. In doing this he gave our town a new trade; and he did more—he shewed the world that Birmingham, stigmatized for the production of things false, was, at the bidding of an earnest man, capable of producing things honest, truthful, noble and precious. It was in 1845 that Mr. Hardman commenced his establishment for the manufacture of metal work and stained glass in accordance with true principles, and from his establishment have emanated the many similar works now so widely distributed in the metropolis and elsewhere. When he commenced

his labours in his peculiar field he found everything false as regards principle, and tinsel as regards ornament; for the false he substituted the true, for the tinsel he substituted the real. There are few cathedrals, churches, or public buildings built according to the true principles of revived Gothic architecture, in which are not enshrined some examples of his manufacture. His works shone resplendent in the local exhibition of 1849, and in the mediæval Court of the Great Exhibition of 1851. They also form interesting features in the Palace of Westminster, and his monumental brasses (singularly appropriate in character and excellent in execution) are to be found widely distributed. Naturally of a retiring disposition, Mr. Hardman rarely took any part in public business, though he was, we understand, a member of the first Town Council elected under the new Act, but retired when his period of office came to an end. But there are other qualities connected with the subject of this sketch which the public know not of—'Large was his bounty and his soul sincere.' To the institutions connected with his church he was a munificent donor; to those connected with the charitable and public institutions of the town he was liberal also. His charity, however, was above that of creed. He was truly of those who 'let not the left hand know what the right doeth.' To be in misery and suffering was a passport to him. The cry of the orphan, the wail of the widow, never reached his ear in vain. To those in his employ he was ever a kind master and friend, and was even parental in his sympathies. There is reason to believe that in his earnest labours in connection with Mr. Pugin, which were not only labours of love, but also of sacrifice, his health suffered; and about ten years ago he retired from the active duties of the establishment which, by his energy, he founded, and has since resided at some distance from Birmingham, the scene of his early labours, finally at Clifton, near Bristol, where he died, after long suffering endured with much fortitude.

The political activity and excitement of the year was equalled, if not surpassed, by its religious activity and excitement. An agitation had existed for some time between the extreme Protestant and the Ritualistic parties, occasioned by the Rev. J. S. Pollock, in the conduct of his services at St. Alban's, in Dymoke Street. It was fanned into open flame by the arrival of Mr. Murphy, and the violent conduct of the Irish Roman Catholics in the town. The Mayor (Mr. G. Dixon) had refused the use of the Town Hall for Mr. Murphy to lecture in; and that gentleman erected a large wooden building in Carr's Lane, which was called the "Tabernacle."

On Sunday, June 16th, he delivered his first lecture there against Roman Catholicism. A large number of Irish gathered about the place, and employed themselves in hissing, groaning, and throwing stones. The police were not in sufficient strength to disperse them, or to prevent the mischief which followed. In the evening they commenced their work of violence by proceeding to the house of Mr. John Aston, in Dale End, and smashed the windows. Mr. Aston was the father of Mr. T. H. Aston, the hon. secretary of the Birmingham Protestant Association, who had been instrumental in bringing Mr. Murphy to the town. The windows of other houses were also broken by the lawless mob. On Monday morning, however, these outrages were terribly avenged. A large number of Birmingham roughs took possession of Park Street, and literally gutted the houses of the Irish living there. In the afternoon a squadron of the 8th Hussars under the command of Colonel Cooke, Captain Montague, and Lieutenant Marris, were called out by the Mayor and Magistrates, the riot act was read, and the streets were speedily cleared. There was of course much excitement in the town. The claims for compensation amounted to £1,562 1s. 10d., but in consequence of the absurd provision of the law, which requires that an actual intent to demolish the building must be proved before compensation can be allowed, only £71 19s. was recovered. At the next Quarter Sessions, held on June 24, thirty persons were indicted for being concerned in the riots. They were admitted to bail, each one entering into his own recognisance, and finding a surety for £5, to appear at the next Sessions. They did so, and the prosecution was withdrawn, but upon whose authority has not yet been determined. In less than a month after the riots, one of the liberated prisoners, John M'Nally, met with his death in a sudden and unexpected manner. On July 15, he went with a companion into the liquor shop of Mr. Morris Roberts, in Dale End, and asked for three drams of Irish Whiskey. He was intoxicated at the time, and Mr. Roberts, who had taken

an active part in supporting Mr. Murphy, anticipating that he merely came in to create a disturbance, refused to supply the spirit, and told him to leave the shop. M'Nally's reply to this request was of the most abusive and outrageous kind, and he ended by throwing the glasses and decanters which were upon the counter at the landlord. He attempted to get over the counter to assault Roberts, who drew a revolver and shot him dead on the spot. The Coroner's jury returned a verdict of "justifiable homicide;" but Roberts was committed by the magistrates to take his trial on the charge of manslaughter, bail being accepted for his appearance.

On the 17th of September, from some yet unexplained reason, the Rev. J. S. Pollock publicly excommunicated a girl named Letitia Taylor. This act led to a large number of meetings and lectures, and memorials were presented to the Bishop on the subject, but his reply was cautious and guarded, almost to feebleness. For some time St. Alban's was visited by large numbers of persons who hissed the preacher and disturbed the services. These acts of violence culminated on the 13th of October, when the excommunicated Miss Taylor, supported by Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Aston, again presented herself at St. Alban's, and a scene of violence took place, which surpassed all that had preceded. The exhibition was disgraceful Men cursed and blasphemed, clambered over the seats, hissing and yelling in the most excited manner. The women screamed and rushed to the door, and at one time fatal results were anticipated. The chapel had to be guarded for some weeks after by the police. Another foolish act added fuel to this religious excitement. On the 20th of November, a meeting was held at the back of the Town Hall to petition the Government not to hang the Fenian prisoners for shooting Brett at Manchester. The anti-Fenian spirit of the people was roused, and a large number assailed the speakers, and broke up the meeting. They then marched off to St. Alban's again, attacked St. Chad's, and for two nights another riot was feared.

On the 13th of November, Mr. Thomas Gutteridge delivered a lecture, in the Town Hall, on "Ritualism from a

Layman's Point of View," and made a specific charge of immorality against a nunnery, which, upon investigation, he entirely failed in substantiating.

On July 4th, at the age of 72, died Mr. Nathan Kimberley, who had discharged the duties of Borough Treasurer since the year 1858.

On July 9th, died in his 58th year, Mr. William Scholefield, the senior member for this town. Mr. Scholefield was born in 1809, at his father's house in the Old Square. In 1837 he was elected High Bailiff. When Birmingham obtained the Act of Incorporation, Mr. Scholefield, as returning officer, presided over the first meeting of the Council, and on December 29th, 1838, he was unanimously elected our first Mayor. On the death of his father, Mr. Joshua Scholefield, the son, became a candidate for the vacant seat, but the choice of the electors fell on Mr. R. Spooner, who polled 2,095 votes to Mr. Scholefield's 1,735. At the general election of 1847, Mr. Scholefield and Mr. Muntz were elected the members for the borough, since which time to the day of his death, Mr. Scholefield continued the faithful and trusted member of the town. A better representative, a more useful citizen, or one more universally beloved, no community ever possessed. He was buried at Kensal Green Cemetery, near London, July 16th. A deputation from the Town Council attended the funeral.

In consequence of the Mayor, Mr. Dixon, having been nominated as a candidate for the seat rendered vacant by the lamented death of Mr. Scholefield, he resigned his office of Mayor. A special meeting of the Town Council was held on July 15, at which Mr. Councillor Thomas Avery, was elected his successor for the remainder of the municipal year.

The foundation stone of the new church of St. Asaph, at the junction of Great Colmore Street, and Latimer Street South, was laid by the Bishop of the Diocese on August 22.

At a special meeting of the Town Council on September 17, Mr. W. R. Hughes, Secretary to the General Hospital, was elected Borough Treasurer.

Christ Church, Sparkbrook, which cost nearly £8,000, was consecrated by the Bishop of the Diocese, on October the 1st; who also laid the foundation stone of St. Augustine's Church, Hagley Road, on the 12th; and on the 15th Mr. Frederick Elkington performed the same ceremony for the Church of St. Nicholas.

A united gathering of the National Freedmen's Aid Union was held at the Royal Hotel on October 17, at which Mr. William Lloyd Garrison attended and addressed the meeting. It was twenty-one years since this advocate of the freedom of the negro had visited Birmingham. In the evening a meeting was held in the Town Hall, the Mayor, Mr. T. Avery, in the chair. Speeches were delivered, by the Right Rev. D. McIlvaine, Bishop of Ohio, Mr. Mitchell of Tennesee, Mr. Garrison, Mr. George Thompson, Mr. Green, an emancipated slave, the Rev. S. Bache, and Mr. R. W. Dale.

On November 9, Mr. T. Avery was re-elected Mayor for the ensuing year.

The Cattle, Poultry and Dogs Shows this year were held on December 2, 3, 4, and 5; the total number of visitors to the first two was 45,584; the total receipts at the door £979; sales of poultry £1,103 14s. 6d. At the Dog Show there were 17,925 visitors, £867 13s. 6d. taken at the door, and £248 17s. 0d. for the sale of dogs.

A meeting was held at the Midland Institute on December 12, Lord Leigh in the chair, at which, on the motion of Mr. George Dawson it was resolved to establish a Midland Counties Lunatic Asylum. Dr. Bell Fletcher stated that for 20 inmates it would require an income of £500 a year, and from £1,000 to £1,200 to erect and furnish the asylum. On the motion of Mr. George Dixon, M.P., it was resolved that the private institution at Knowle be taken as the foundation for the asylum.

On December 17, in the 60th year of his age, Charles Rann Kennedy died, at Harborne:—

Mr. Kennedy was the second son of the late Rev. Rann Kennedy, formerly second master of King Edward's School, and afterwards for

many years incumbent of St. Paul's Church. He was educated at King Edward's School and at Shrewsbury School (of which his elder brother, Dr. Kennedy, now Regius Professor of Greek, at Cambridge, was subsequently, head master). Going to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1827, as an exhibitioner of King Edward's School, Mr. C. R. Kennedy greatly distinguished himself at the University. In 1828, he took the Bell Scholarship, and in 1829, became scholar of Trinity, gaining also in that year the Browne medal for a Greek Ode, and the Porson prize. In 1830, he took the Pitt University Scholarship, the Browne medal for a Latin Ode, and the Porson prize for the second time. In 1831 he graduated B.A., as Senior Classic (the new Bishop of Lichfield, Dr. Selwyn, being second), and was immediately afterwards elected a Fellow of Trinity. Mr. Kennedy then entered at Lincoln's Inn, and was called to the Bar by that Society in 1835, when he joined the Home Circuit. While practising in London, he was engaged in many important cases—taking for example, a prominent share in the arguments in the famous case of 'Stockdale *v.* Hanson,' in reference to which he afterwards published a tract of some note it its day, on 'The Privilege of Parliament.' Ill health interrupting his professional labours, Mr. Kennedy was for some time engaged on the press. Ultimately he returned to practice, joined the Midland Circuit, and settled at Birmingham, where he remained until the close of his life, practising in the local courts, and emerging from comparative obscurity only in connection with the memorable Swinfen case. As a scholar, Mr. Kennedy was widely and honourably known by his translations of Demosthenes' Orations—his chief work. He also published a translation of Virgil, contributed valuable articles on Greek law and antiquities to the 'Archœological Dictionary,' in which he was associated with Mr. Whiston and the late Dr. Donaldson. To these more enduring works may be added many fugitive publications; a volume of poems, translations, magazine articles, a tragedy, and a poem on 'Hannibal in Italy.'

On the 20th a special general meeting of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch and the British Medical Association was held at the Midland Institute to consider the rate of remuneration of medical officers to Sick Assurance Societies. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

1st.—That the medical officers of friendly societies be recommended to decline to attend clubs any longer for a less sum than 5s. a head per annum. 2nd.—That this report be sent to the medical and local press. 3rd.—That this committee be re-appointed, with power to add to their number (both from members of the association and from other members

of the profession), and that they be empowered to take such steps as they may deem desirable for the promotion of the objects of this report.

The year 1868 opened with deeds of charity and beneficence. At a meeting of the Town Council held on January 7, the Mayor received a letter from Mr. Arthur Ryland, enclosing a copy of the memorandum and articles of association of a society recently incorporated under the name of "Evans's Cottage Homes." The object of the association is the management of a charity founded by Mr. Alfred Smith Evans, of Mariemount, Edgbaston, for providing cottage homes and annuities for ladies of reduced fortunes. The conduct of the charity is placed under the direction of seven gentlemen, of whom the Mayor of Birmingham for the time being is one. During the lifetime of Mr. Evans the selection of candidates is to rest with him alone, and after his death will devolve upon the committee. The vacancies occurring in the committee from time to time are to be supplied by the vote of the Town Council, who are to make their selection from the Borough Justices. The Mayor moved, "That the communication be received and entered on the minutes, and that the Mayor be requested to inform Mr. Evans that this Council fully appreciates the liberality and benevolence which have happily suggested to him the foundation of so valuable a charity in this Borough." Mr. Evans endowed the Charity with the munificent sum of £5,500. The motion was carried.

At the meeting on February 11th, the Mayor, Mr. T. Avery, offered to present to the Art Gallery a bust of the late Mr. W. Scholefield, M.P.; and on the same occasion Mr. Elijah Walton presented to the town three paintings, executed by that distinguished artist, of the Dolomite Mountains.

On the 3rd of February, at an advanced age, died Miss Eliza Keating, a lady well known to Birmingham by her literary labours. She was of Irish extraction; her father at the commencement of the nineteenth century was editor of the *Times*, and from an early age she showed a particular

partiality for literature. On the death of her father she devoted herself to the labours of tuition, and filled the important position of governess in several families of distinction in the midland counties. She was the author of many educational works, including a chronological history of the different nations of the world, arranged in parallel order, with the names of the kings and rulers, and a summary of the principal events in each country. She was also the author of a number of drawing-room charades, some of which have been performed at Windsor; but she was better known to the Birmingham public by her pantomimes, which have been performed at the Theatre Royal in this town. Her charades, especially "Blue Beard," attained considerable reputation, and were very successful.

A public meeting in connection with the Free Grammar School Association was held on the 16th of April, Mr. G. Dixon, M.P., in the chair, at which the following resolutions were passed :—

That inasmuch as the Royal Commissioners have recommended the abolition of the present mode of election of Governors, the free admission of pupils by competitive examination, capitation fees, improved courses of study, adapted to the wants of the locality, and a provision for the education of larger numbers ; this meeting receives their report with great satisfaction, believing that the proposed reforms, which have been so long desired by the public, will greatly stimulate education, and be of the highest advantage to Birmingham and its neighbourhood.

That in the opinion of this meeting it is incumbent upon the Town Council to take steps to prepare a bill, to be introduced into Parliament if possible during the present session ; such bill to embody the chief recommendations of the Royal Commissioners, and to give to the Governors of the School the power of modifying the scheme without the necessity of renewed application to Parliament.

In order to save expense and facilitate the passing of such bill, this meeting is of opinion that the co-operation of the governors should, if possible, be obtained.

That this meeting is of opinion that it is not necessary to extend the advantages of the endowment to those who are not inhabitants of Birmingham or the adjoining parishes ; and that some considerable portion of the funds should be used to promote the elementary education of the poorest classes.

On April 17, a general meeting of the members of the Medico-Political Association of Great Britain and Ireland was held at the Royal Hotel, the president, Dr. Davey, in the chair. The special objects of the meeting were—(1st) the representation of the registered practitioner in the Medical Council; (2nd) the annihilation of unpaid and underpaid Government medical labour; (3rd) a modification of the present hospital system as regards its relations to the medical profession, which relations at present press unjustly upon the general practitioners of the kingdom, not only through the abuse of medical charities by the public, but also by a universal acceptation of the principle of entirely unpaid medical labour.

Mr. Joseph Corbett died on April the 23rd, in the 76th year of his age. He had been connected with the public life of the town for more than half a century. By trade, a button-maker, he had worked in one establishment, that of Messrs. Hammond and Turner, for nearly fifty years. He was a member of the Council of the Political Union, and a trusted friend of Mr. Thomas Attwood; and bore a conspicuous part in the opposition so successfully raised against church rates. He was also an active supporter of the abolition of the Roman Catholic disabilities, and a worker in the Anti-Corn Law League. "The question of the currency also occupied his attention, and he was appointed one of a deputation, in conjunction with Mr. Joshua Scholefield, to wait upon Lord Melbourne upon the subject, and on his return to Birmingham he was complimented for the ability he had displayed at the interview. For nearly a quarter of a century Mr. Corbett was a member of the Board of Guardians, and was distinguished for his kindness towards the deserving poor, as well as for the punctual and zealous discharge of the duties of the office." A few years before his death he was elected Vice-Chairman of the Board, and about the same time a testimonial was presented to him in recognition of his services. He was an ornament to the class from which he sprung, and to which he for so many years of his long and actively useful life belonged.

On the 27th the Mayor performed the ceremony of uncovering Mr. Foley's statue of Prince Albert in the Art Gallery. The statue is of Carrara marble, and is something over life-size. "The Prince is clothed in the robes of the Order of the Bath, and the heavy cloak falling over and backwards from the shoulders, forms a background to the figure, and by the quietness and order of its folds, gives repose and majesty to the composition. * * * The attitude of the figure is exceedingly graceful, natural, and dignified. One leg is a little advanced, and the weight of the body is principally supported by the other. The right arm hangs down, the fingers of the hand just grasping the hem of the heavy robe. The head is well set upon the shoulders, and the face is full of very noble expression."

The foundation stone of the New Independent Chapel, erected on the site of the old one, in Saltley Road, was laid by Mr. H. Wright, of London, on June 30.

On July 1st, the old Birmingham Reformer, Mr. George Edmonds died at Northampton, in the 80th year of his age. He was born in this town in 1788. The first mention that we find of his name in connection with public affairs was about the time of the commencement of the great political agitation which, starting with the famous Political Union, ended with the passing of the Reform Bill of 1832. As chairman of the Birmingham Hampden Club, he presided at the first political meeting on Newhall Hill early in 1817; "the first of those Newhall Hill gatherings, which have become so famous in our political history, and were ultimately attended with such great results." The *Gazette* of January 27th, 1817, says, in its account of this meeting:—

> The speakers, consisting almost wholly of the members and supporters of the Hampden Club formed in this town, were elevated upon scaffolding at the bottom of the hill near the Parade, from whence they addressed the crowd. A Mr. Edmonds, chairman of the Club, was the principal speaker, and his address embraced the various topics usually discussed at similar meetings.

In 1819, the Liberal party had grown in strength, and took a bold and decisive step in asserting their right to

be represented in the House of Commons. At a meeting held on Newhall Hill, on Monday, July 12th, they elected Sir Charles Wolseley as their "Legislatorial Attorney and Representative."

Several speeches were made and resolutions passed. The show of hands was declared to be in favour of Sir Charles, and this was followed by cries of "another member." "But whether, remarks the astute writer in *Aris's Gazette*, "the additional honour they wished to confer was intended for Major Cartwright, Wooler, or Edmonds, did not appear."

Sir Charles Wolseley was not present at the meeting, but Mr. Edmonds (as chairman), Major Cartwright, and Mr. Wooler waited upon him, and acquainted him with the determination of the meeting, and we learn that Sir Charles accepted the office of "Legislatorial Attorney and Representative."

The Government at once took alarm; and a proclamation against seditious assemblies was published, in which the Newhall Hill meeting had the honour of being specially alluded to. The advisers of the Crown were foolish enough to invoke the law against the leaders of this meeting. At the Warwick Spring Assizes a bill of indictment was found by the grand jury against Major Cartwright and Wooler, W. G. Lewis, of Coventry, and George Edmonds and Charles Maddocks, of this town, "for conspiring (at the Newhall Hill meeting) to elect and return, without lawful authority, Sir Charles Wolseley, Bart., as a member to represent the inhabitants of Birmingham in the Commons House of Parliament.".

The indictment was removed by *certiorari* into the Court of King's Bench, and was to come on for trial at the next Warwick Assizes in the *Nisi Prius* Court. All the defendants gave bail to appear and plead to the charge in the King's Bench next term. The question was thus to be brought to issue; "and," says the local chronicler, "we trust these daring innovators will be taught that the laws of the country are not to be violated with impunity. They affect to rejoice

that the affair has taken this course, and we are sure every real lover of peace and of his country will for once coincide with them in the expression of a similar feeling of satisfaction."

George Edmonds also took part in the meeting on Newhall Hill in September, 1819, to express indignation at what has been termed the "Peterloo Massacre," at Manchester, in which some of the people were killed by the yeomanry.

In the spring of 1820, he was tried for libel at the Warwick Assizes. The prosecutor was Mr. Spurrier, a respectable solicitor of Birmingham. "For nearly thirty years," as we learn from the *Gazette* of that date, "Mr. Spurrier had been employed as an agent for the Bank of England, and the unpleasant part of his duty was to collect depositions against persons who had committed forgeries on the above establishment. In 1802 a person of the name of Allen was executed on Washwood Heath for forgery; and the allusion in the libel was that he (Mr. Spurrier) had reaped a harvest of glory on that occasion, from the declaration said to have been made by Allen that he had been sacrificed by Mr. Spurrier, who had procured his conviction by spies and informers, in order to obtain the blood money." The defendant did not offer to justify his statement, and the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, damages £200.

The *Gazette* of July 31st, 1820, contains the following:—

It will be seen by our Parliamentary report this week that a paper, signed by George Edmonds, late of radical notoriety here, and falsely purporting to be 'the complaint, remonstrance, and petition of the inhabitants of Birmingham,' was presented by Alderman Wood to the House of Commons on Tuesday last. Unfortunately for members who were absent when this precious document was read, the worthy Alderman's motion to have it printed was immediately rejected. By several of the members present it was declared to be too much to expect that such nonsense, virulence, and slander should be allowed to be printed."

Early in August of the same year, Edmonds, along with Major Cartwright, Thomas Jonathan Wooler (editor of the "Black Dwarf,") William G. Lewis (of Coventry), and Charles

Maddocks, were charged before the Lord Chief Baron with seditious conspiracy, and with "illegally electing Sir Charles Wolseley, Bart., as Legislative Attorney and Representative for the town of Birmingham. Mr. Denman defended Edmonds and Maddocks, and Mr. Hill defended Cartwright; Wooler and Lewis conducting their own defences. The decision in the case of Edmonds was delayed time after time, but he was at length sentenced to imprisonment for twelve months in Warwick Gaol. At the expiration of his sentence he informed his "friends and his enemies" of the fact by public advertisement.*

Mr. Edmond's name is on the list of the thirty-six gentlemen who first signed the declaration required of members of the Political Union for the protection of Public Rights.

Mr. Edmonds seems to have been for some time assiduous in his attention to the duties of his school, for we do not find him taking any very prominent part in public affairs until the year 1830. He was present and spoke at the town's meeting held in August of that year "for the purpose of expressing the sense of the inhabitants on the recent events in France," alluding to the revolution in that country and the banishment of the Bourbons.

In October of the same year a dinner was held at Beardsworth's Repository, under the auspices of the Political Union, to celebrate the French Revolution, and here again we find the subject of the present notice taking an active part in the proceedings.

The political excitement continued to increase, and the year 1831 opened with a visit from "Orator Hunt," the Radical member for Preston. The great demagogue was met by a large crowd on the Wolverhampton Road, and was then escorted to the edge of the town, where he was formally introduced to the people by Mr. Edmonds.

The agitation for Parliamentary Reform was continued with unremitting zeal, until the second reading of the Reform Bill, which was carried in March, 1831, by a majority of 22,

* This curious advertisement is printed on page 530, vol. 2 of the "Century of Birmingham Life."

the news of which was received in Birmingham with unequivocal demonstrations of rejoicing.

It was now proposed to recognise the great services rendered by Mr. Edmonds to the cause of reform, and we are informed by the *Gazette* that—

At a meeting of the friends of Mr. George Edmonds, held at the Globe Tavern, Temple Street, Mr. John Betts in the chair :—

It was resolved unanimously, on the motion of the Rev. T. M. M'Donnell—That Mr. George Edmonds, by his superior talents, by the tried integrity, the intrepid spirit, and the persevering industry with which he has for a long series of years devoted himself to the great cause of public liberty, and more especially to the rights, privileges, and welfare of his fellow-townsmen, has established a just claim to their approbation and esteem.

The undersigned, therefore, invite the inhabitants of Birmingham generally to co-operate with them in an endeavour to manifest these sentiments, by presenting Mr. George Edmonds with some memorial of their esteem.

Joshua Scholefield, Esq.	William Jennings	Samuel Haycock
Thomas Attwood, Esq.	Benjamin Hadley	John Giles
George Attwood, Esq.	Joseph Davies	William Weston
Rev. T. M. M'Donnell	T. C. Salt	Thos. Shorthouse
Samuel Morris	John Bourn	Robert Percy
S. A. Goddard	Samuel Burrell	Josiah Eames
John Betts	John Pierce	William Pare.

Resolved that Thomas Attwood, Esq. be appointed treasurer, and that all subscriptions of £1 or upwards be paid into the banking-house of Messrs. Spooner, Attwoods, and Co.

In a future advertisement persons will be appointed to receive smaller subscriptions.

Birmingham, April 23, 1831.

The Reform Bill, it will be remembered, was defeated by the passing of General Gascoyne's motion, and the excitement in the town then became greater than ever. Mr. Edmonds continued to work zealously in the cause till the Bill of 1832 received the Royal assent.

In September, 1832, Mr. Edmonds supported the proposal for a fourpenny Church-rate for St. Martin's, and on this occasion he was opposed by Messrs. Pare, M'Donnell, Hadley and others of his former colleagues.

Mr. Edmonds took part in the celebrated Anti-Slavery meeting, held in Dee's Assembly Room, in April, 1833.

At the election in 1836, Mr. Attwood was proposed by Mr. B. Hadley and seconded by Mr. George Edmonds. Mr. Attwood was returned at the head of the poll.

The Chartist riots, with which the name of Geo. Edmonds is inseparably connected, commenced in 1839. The motto of the Political Union, "Peace, Law, and Order" was despised by the more violent and foolish leaders of this new political crusade. The banner which had led to such glorious results in 1832 was ignominiously trampled in the dust, and "Arms! arms! arms!" was now the cry of the infuriated and deluded people. The Union did its best to stop the spread of this evil, but without success. A meeting was held in the Town Hall on January 15, 1838, at which it was resolved that deputations should be sent to the other large towns in the kingdom in order to establish branch unions. Resolutions were also passed in favour of triennial Parliaments, universal suffrage, and vote by ballot. It was, however, clear that the influence of the union was waning, for, although the meeting was held on a Monday night, the Hall was not crowded, and a very large part of the audience left during the proceedings. The people were driven to desperation by distress, and the wise and prudent advice of the old leaders sounded cold to them, and they elected to follow those dangerous counsels which led in the end to violence and ignominious defeat. "In November" writes Mr. James Jaffray, the author of "Hints for a History of Birmingham," "Fergus O'Connor, then in the zenith of his popularity as a political agitator, introduced the doctrine that the people were justified in obtaining their rights by physical force." The leaders of the Birmingham confederation—Messrs. Salt, Muntz, Edmonds, and others, disowned the scheme, and condemned the doctrine. "No, by the great God," emphatically exclaimed George Edmonds, "the honest men of Birmingham will never stand it!" Unfortunately the honest men of Birmingham did stand it, and the results were the disastrous riots of 1839.

Some of the rioters on this occasion were defended on their trial by Mr. Edmonds, and this circumstance elicited from the Duke of Wellington, in the House of Lords, some observations questioning the propriety of such a proceeding.

About the same time Mr. Edmonds figured in the Anti-Corn Law agitation. An Anti-Corn Law meeting was held in the Town Hall, on Monday, January 28, to consider the propriety of petitioning Parliament for the repeal of the corn laws. It was rather a curious assembly. The Hall was crowded, the vast majority present being Chartists. Messrs. P. H. Muntz, B. Hadley, and T. C. Salt, who were opposed to the conveners of the meeting on the ground of the utter uselessness of petitioning Parliament as then constituted, were received with continued cheers, while Messrs. G. Edmonds, T. Weston, the Rev. T. M. M'Donnell, and the members of the Town Council who were in favour of the petition were greeted with "the most discordant yells, and marks of the greatest disapprobation." An amendment was carried by an enormous majority. The lost petition was afterwards submitted to the town for the signature of those who were in its favour. A petition from the Mayor and Council on the same subject was presented to the House of Lords by Lord Brougham on Friday, February the 8th.

The Charter of Incorporation for this Borough was publicly read at the Town Hall, on Monday, the 5th November, 1838, and on the 7th of May in the following year, the Council held their first meeting. The Mayor, on that occasion, announced that the petition for a separate Court of Quarter Sessions at Birmingham had been granted. Mr. Matthew Davenport Hill was appointed Recorder, on the recommendation of the Town Council; and Mr. George Edmonds was unanimously elected Clerk of the Peace by the same body.

From his appointment as Clerk of the Peace, he only occasionally took part in public affairs, and his active political career may be said to have closed with that event.

His last public appearance—the last public appearance, too, of the late lamented Mr. Scholefield—was, on the 28th of August, 1866, at the great meeting in the Town Hall,

which followed the first Reform demonstration in the Brookfields. Mr. Edmonds on that occasion delivered his valedictory address, and after recalling some of the political events of the past with earnest and pathetic fervour, he took his leave of them "for ever."

On September 30, the Social Science Congress commenced its labours by a sermon, preached by the Bishop of Worcester, in St. Philip's Church; and in the evening the noble President, the Earl of Carnarvon, delivered the inaugural address in the Town Hall. The proceedings lasted until October 7th. A large number of addresses were delivered, papers read, and discussions followed. There were two soirées in the Town Hall, one on the 1st, and the other on the 5th; and on the 3rd there was an excursion to Dudley, to view the caverns. On the 2nd Mr. Munro's statue of James Watt was unveiled by the Mayor, and Mr. S. Timmins delivered an address in the Town Hall. In the evening Miss Carpenter delivered an address on Education in India. On the 2nd the Bishop of the Diocese consecrated the Church of St. Augustine, in the Hagley Road.

On October 5, an investigation into the affairs of the late Birmingham Banking Company was opened by Mr. Dugdale, barrister. It was continued for several days, when some of the directors were examined, and the inquiry was adjourned until next term.

On November 9, Mr. Alderman H. Holland was elected Mayor for the ensuing year, and Messrs. T. Avery, G. Goodrick, H. Hawkes, H. Holland, H. Manton, E. C. Osborne, T. Phillips, and E. Yates were elected Aldermen.

The Annual Cattle, Poultry, and Dog Shows were held this year on November 30, and December 1, 2, and 3; at the Cattle and Poultry Shows the number of admissions was 14,283; the receipts at the door, £992, and from the poultry sales, £982 1s. The admissions to the Dog Show were 18,820; receipts at the door, £879; from sale of dogs, £592.

On the 2nd of December a public dinner was given to Mr. Reverdy Johnson, Ambassador from the United States. Mr. George Dixon, M.P., presided on this occasion.

The Church of St. Asaph, in Great Colmore Street, was consecrated by the Bishop of the Diocese on the 8th.

The Chamber of Commerce convened a meeting on the 15th, to consider the subject of the Factory and Workshop's Acts. Mr. R. Baker, the Inspector of Factories for this district was present, and after a long discussion, a resolution in favour of enforcing the Workshop's Act was passed.

Duing the year 1867, a great grievance of the letter carriers was made public. This was caused by the addition of a night delivery commencing at seven o'clock. Numerous complaints appeared in the daily papers, and it was thus made known that this body of public officials began their duties at six o'clock in the morning, and were employed until nearly nine o'clock at night. The efforts made to remedy this injustice, inflicted on a very deserving body of public servants, were for a time unavailing. The heads of the department were inexorable. In consequence of this treatment, in May, 1868, Mr. Wall Richards quietly took the matter in hand. He drew up a memorial to the Postmaster General, showing that the second day delivery might be accelerated, so that late London and North Country letters might be delivered some hours earlier, by the abolition of the night delivery. The following were the deliveries during the day :—7 and 11 a.m., 1·25, 4·30, and 7 p.m.

To this memorial Mr. Richards obtained the signatures of all our bankers, leading merchants, and manufacturers. It was of a strictly commercial character, so that no clergyman, minister of religion, professional gentleman, or person not in business, was allowed to sign. As it was, this curious memorial measured twenty yards in length, and was presented to the Postmaster General, the Duke of Montrose, by Mr. Bromley Davenport, M.P. The object of the memorialists' was successful, and in *Aris's Gazette* for January 2, 1869, this paragraph appeared :—

We understand that the following new arrangements have been sanctioned. An increased number of letter carriers will be employed on the first delivery, in order that a second delivery, consisting of letters

from the North and West of England, may be effected at 9·30 a.m. A third delivery will commence at 11 a.m., a fourth at 1·30 p.m., and a fifth and last, at 4·30 p.m.

In this practical manner a very important improvement in the local Post Office for the rapid delivery of letters took place, and the removal of an unnecessary burden on the letter carriers.

Mr. Richard's services were not allowed to pass unrecognized. At the annual meeting of the letter carriers, held on January 9, they presented to him the Art Journal Catalogue of the Paris Exhibition of 1867, as an acknowledgment of his successful labours in their behalf.

The Church of St. Gabriel, Barn Street, was consecrated by the Bishop of the Diocese, on January 5th, 1869.

At a meeting of the Town Council on the same day, the Mayor submitted the reply of the Hon. Reverdy Johnson to the address presented to him on behalf of the Council on the 2nd of December last. It was ordered to be entered on the minutes. He also submitted a letter from Alderman Wiggin, chairman of the Watt Statue Committee, formally handing over to the Council the statue of James Watt. Alderman Wiggin observed in his letter that the Committee were highly pleased with the manner in which the work had been executed by Mr. Munro, and they were glad to believe that this opinion was shared by the Council and the inhabitants of Birmingham. The Mayor moved, "that the Public Works Committee be instructed to take charge of the statue, and from time to time to take such measures as may be necessary for the preservation and maintenance thereof." This was agreed to, with the addition of an instruction to the Public Works Committee to have the word "Watt" inscribed upon the pedestal.

The annual meeting of the Ladywood Co-operative Society, was held January 5th, Mr. George Dixon, M.P., in the chair. Sir C. B. Adderley, Mr. J. S. Wright, and Mr. Jesse Collings, were also present. The report stated that the Ladywood Society began in March, 1866, with a capital

of £1 18s. 0d., and 15 members. In May following, with a paid-up capital of £10 they commenced business. At the close of 1866 the number of members was 35; business had been transacted to the amount of £153 1s. 2d., and the capital of the Society had been increased to £53 3s. 7d.: a profit being realised, after paying all expenses, of £10. The business transacted during 1868, amounted to £4,657 6s. 3d., being an increase of £2,444 over that of 1867, during which time the capital had increased from £425 to £802. The profits of the year, actually paid as dividend and as interest on capital, amounted to £179. The proceedings attracted considerable attention, and leading articles on the subject of co-operation in Birmingham, appeared in the *Times* and other London newspapers.

At a meeting of the Board of Guardians held on January the 13th, the chairman read the following letter from the clerk:—

Birmingham, 13th January, 1869.

Gentlemen,

In compliance with the intimation I gave at the last meeting of the Board, I beg respectfully to resign my office as your Clerk on the 25th of March next, when I shall have nearly completed my tenure of office for the period of twenty years; and I venture to invite your attention to the amount of my retiring allowance, in accordance with the provision which is vested in you by the statute 27 and 28 Victoria, cap. 42. I, at the same time, beg to state that it will be my pleasure and duty to render my successor all the assistance in my power. With my best thanks for the kindness I have on all occasions received at your hands,

I beg most respectfully to remain,

Your very obedient servant,

JAMES CORDER.

To the Board of Guardians,
Parish of Birmingham.

The following resolution was, after some discussion, passed:—

This Board, in receiving Mr. Corder's resignation of office as clerk to the Guardians, desires to record its deep sense of the value of his able and efficient services, so zealously and unremittingly rendered during the many years he has held the office; and hereby resolves that it is

desirable to make him a retiring allowance of £250 per annum, assuring him that he will carry with him into his retirement the best wishes of every member of the Board, and their earnest hope that the evening of his days may be blessed with comfort and happiness, and that he may long enjoy the leisure and repose he has so well earned.

At the same meeting the clerk stated that an order had been received from the Poor Law Board, dated the 31st of December, rescinding the former order of the Poor Law Board, dated the 15th of January, 1867, for erecting schools for the infant children at a cost not exceeding £21,000. At a meeting held on the 27th, the committee appointed to consider the way in which the vacancy caused by Mr. Corder's resignation should be filled up, reported the following resolution, which was adopted :—

That it is the opinion of this committee that the Clerk to be appointed should devote his whole time to the service of the parish, and perform all the duties specified in the order of the Poor Law Board, and all other duties required of him by the Guardians, and supervise all the office arrangements ; and that for the performance of such duties he do receive a salary of £300.

At the same meeting the Medical Relief Committee reported that they had passed the following resolution :—

That it appears to the committee desirable that the number of medical officers should be reduced to five, and that their districts be uniform with the relieving officers' districts ; and that they be allowed to pursue private practice.

Mr. Clay moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. Jones. Mr. Thomason moved as an amendment :—

That the salaries of the five medical officers be £200 each, instead of £240, exclusive of attendance on lunatics.

After a lengthy discussion, the amendment was put to the meeting, when 22 voted for it and 15 for the motion. At a subsequent meeting the allowance of a retiring pension of £250 a year to Mr. Corder was confirmed.

At a meeting of the Guardians of the Birmingham Assay Office, held on the 18th, the following resolution was passed :—

That the Guardians see no reason for departing from the present practice of the Assay Office, the assaying and marking of gold chains, namely :—"To assay only such gold chains as are of such fashion and make as to show of their being satisfactorily assayed and marked on every link ; the bars, the swivels, and the links are assayed separately, and the standard mark is struck upon every link as well as upon the bar and swivel."

On January 20, a new peal of eight bells was opened at Bishop Ryder's Church. These bells were the first which were founded in Birmingham ; and were cast by the Messrs. Blews, who had the honour of introducing this new source of industry to the town. The tenor weighs 13 cwt., and the aggregate weight is 55 cwt. The total cost was about £600. The Rev. Dr. J. H. Burges preached a special sermon on the occasion, and after the service in the morning, Canon Cattley, the Rev. H. J. Ellacombe, and Mr. E. B. Dennison, Q.C., with the assistance of several Birmingham campanalogians, rang a series of peals upon the new bells. In the evening the Rev. Mr. Ellacombe delivered a lecture on bells.

On February 4, the Hon. Auberon Herbert, one of the hon. secretaries for getting up the proposed Workingmen's International Exhibition, attended at the Queen's Hotel, to meet a number of gentlemen, for the purpose of appointing a committee in this town for the furtherance of the object. Mr. J. A. Langford presided, and besides the Hon. A. Herbert, there were present Messrs. Elihu Burritt, E. Poole, J. Nicholson, C. Hibbs, T. C. Barnes, H. C. Harding, J. Whateley, C. Sargeant, J. T. Wilkinson, F. Warren, and Christy. Letters of apology for non-attendance were read from Mr. C. Dixon, M.P., and Mr. P. H. Muntz, M.P. The Hon. A. Herbert having delivered an address, the chairman moved that, "Having heard the statement of the Hon. Auberon Herbert, this meeting is of opinion that the manufacturers and artisans of Birmingham should be solicited to co-operate in the proposed International Exhibition, to be held in London in 1870, and that a public meeting be called to lay the subject before the town, and that a provisional committee be appointed to

make the necessary arrangements." Mr. Nicholson seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. C. Hibbs, and carried unanimously. All present, with the addition of Mr. W. C. Aitken, Mr. J. S. Wright, Mr. S. Timmins, Dr. S. Evans, and Mr. J. H. Chamberlain, were elected a provisional committee, with power to add to their number; and Mr. Harding was appointed honorary secretary.

On the 5th a meeting was held for the purpose of establishing an institution for training nurses for Birmingham and the Midland Counties. The Mayor presided. The Rev. Dr. Wilkinson gave an account of the origin of the undertaking, and the Bishop of Worcester moved "That an institution, to be called 'The Birmingham and Midland Counties Training Institution for Nurses,' be established in Birmingham." This was seconded by Mr. Alfred Baker, and supported by Dr. Heslop, and carried. A code of rules was adopted, and a committee elected to manage the society.

Mr. Joseph Hodgson, F.R.S., died at his residence, Westbourne Terrace, London, on February 7th, at the age of 82. The following biographical sketch of this eminent surgeon is from "The Birmingham General Hospital and Triennial Musical Festivals:"—

Mr. Joseph Hodgson, F.R.S., succeeded Mr. Dickenson, in 1821, and remained surgeon to the Hospital for twenty-seven years. This distinguished surgeon is the son of a Birmingham merchant, and early directed his attention to the study of surgery, by becoming a house pupil of Mr. George Freer. Many of his fellow-students have attained to a local eminence in various parts of England, but he was himself destined to become a celebrity, wherever surgical science extends. He evidently made a better than ordinary use of his time of pupilage at the Birmingham Hospital, and soon showed a capacity and application which could not fail to ensure reputation and success. In London he pursued his studies at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and there laid the foundation of friendships with some of the most illustrious men in the profession, destined to endure for life, and which plainly indicated the general appreciation of his powers and character, even at that early period, on the part of persons whose good opinion was itself a reputation. He remained for a few years in London, with the intention apparently of practising in the metropolis, but was subsequently induced to come

down to Birmingham, by the calls, partly of friendship and old associations, partly, as is generally understood, in obedience to feelings of a still more tender and equally honourable character, Birmingham has good reason to rejoice in this determination.

While in London, Mr. Hodgson was not idle. It was here he wrote in 1811, an Essay on the Diseases of Arteries and Veins, in competition for the Jacksonian Prize of the College of Surgeons. It was successful, and is still, in our opinion, the best Jacksonian Prize ever written, though among the successful writers for it are to be found the names of some of the greatest surgeons in the past half century. The essay was not published until 1815, when it had become expanded into a great 'Treatise.' It was accompanied by a quarto volume of illustrated engravings, after drawings by the author, of truly extraordinary merit. We rarely see the accomplishments of a surgeon combined with those of an artist; but in Mr. Hodgson's case great excellence was the result of this combination, and he appears to have fostered the art of the draughtsman among his numerous pupils. The publication of this treatise at once gave Mr. Hodgson a prodigious reputation both in this country and on the continent, where it was honoured by a translation into French, by Mr. Breschet, one of the most illustrious members of the School of Paris.

Mr. Hodgson's mind was early directed to this important subject while a student at the Hospital, and doubtless the researches of Mr. Freer tended to inspire him with a desire to give a greater exactitude to our knowledge of it. In his preface he gracefully says, 'Many of the cases which I have related occurred in the practice of Mr. Freer, of Birmingham, and I have sincere gratification in acknowledging the liberality which I have experienced from his friendship on this and many other occasions.' Whether we consider the extended research of this work, the admirable purity of its style, the minute examinations of the diseases described, both before and after death, or the clear perception evinced of the more important points of their causation and treatment, it will be admitted to be an enduring monument of its author's fame. Our opinion of his ability is heightened by the consideration that the work was written at a very early period of life, and when the true nature and relations of the diseases mentioned were but most imperfectly understood.

There is one remarkable paragraph which shadowed forth the future history of one part of his subject. It is observed (page 313)—'the cure of aneurism in general, whether effected spontaneously or by the assistance of art, is therefore referable to one principle—the diminution of the force of the circulation through the sac. All which art can with safety accomplish is to place the parts in a condition in which the powers of the economy are capable of remedying the effects of the disease.'

On giving up a London for a provincial practice, Mr. Hodgson brought with him, or rather had been preceded by, the highest surgical reputation. He at once obtained a success which has never been approached by any surgeon in this district. The esteem of his brethren and the favour of the public were given without hesitation. Among his patients were the late Sir R. Peel, and many members of his family. He enjoyed the unbounded confidence of that eminent statesman, who cherished a warm attachment for his surgeon. He had the melancholy duty of attending Sir Robert long afterwards at Whitehall, in conjunction with Sir R. Brodie, when a sad accident deprived this country and mankind of his patriotism and genius. When, after a few years, he was elected surgeon to the Hospital of which he had been so meritorious a student, his claims to the honour were all but universally admitted. He carried to the performance of his duties an exact acquaintance with the whole range of surgery—a sound administrative judgment—a genuine enthusiasm for the repute of his *alma mater*—and a devoted zeal for the interests of the poor. That he was a valuable officer need not be averred; and on leaving the institution in 1848, the governors testified their sense of his remarkable services by having a portrait of him, painted by Mr. Partridge, placed in the committee room. It is an uncommonly good likeness, carefully finished, and in every way creditable to the artist. Mr. Hodgson's numerous admirers were gratified at being able to procure an engraving, consumately executed by Cousins. The meeting at which the subscription list was commenced was unusually large, and presided over by the late Right Hon. Sir R. Peel. Early in 1849, Mr. Hodgson took up his residence in the metropolis, renewing his acquaintance with many of the distinguished friends of his youth, and taking part in the management of its scientific institutions. He was elected Examiner in Surgery at the University of London; President of the Medico-Chirurgical Society (the St. Stephen's of medicine); and a member of the Council and Board of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons. Such honours no provincial surgeon has ever before received, but Mr. Hodgson was provincial by accident. He is in reality one of those gifted men who belong to all mankind.

Although to us the chief interest of Mr. Hodgson's career in Birmingham is centered in the General Hospital, yet this town is also indebted to him in a peculiar manner for the establishment of the Eye Infirmary, which was opened for the reception of patients, April 13, 1824, and was first projected by him in the Autumn of 1823. In its first year the want was so fully experienced that no less than 1,733 patients availed themselves of its benefits; but it is now vastly developed, and unquestionably as valuable as any charity in the borough. The whole surgical labours of the infant institution were supported by Mr. Hodgson until May, 1828, when he announced to the committee that

his numerous avocations compelled him to request assistance. His first colleague was the present eminent consulting surgeon, who, like his senior, obtained also the Jacksonian Prize, upon the subject, too, which he has spent his life so beneficially in studying and practising. Mr. Hodgson did not merely found the Eye Infirmary, he was the first surgeon here who undertook the treatment of the more severe disorders of that organ, and greatly raised thereby the renown of provincial surgery.

Mr. Hodgson married the sister of J. F. Ledsam, Esq., and has one daughter. Few surgical teachers have been more fortunate in their pupils, some of whom have already attained European reputation. All the present surgeons to the Hospital had the advantage, many years ago, of his instruction.

Mr. Thomas Standbridge, the Town Clerk, died on February 10, in his 52nd year. He had held the important office for nearly fifteen years, having been elected in December, 1854. At the meeting of the Council on the 16th, the following resolutions were passed:—

That in offering to the family of the late Thomas Standbridge, Esq., its sincere condolence and sympathy in the bereavement they have sustained by the death of their father, this Council desires to record its sense of the loss which the Council and the borough at large have suffered by the death of one who for fifteen years filled with honour and distinction the high and important office of Town Clerk, and who, by his uniform courtesy to all who had occasion to consult him, by the able, conscientious, and faithful discharge of his numerous and important duties, and by the loyalty which ever characterised his conduct as the chief officer of this Council, of whose honour and interests he was at all times scrupulously jealous, gained the esteem and admiration of every member of this Council, and the well-deserved approbation of his fellow-burgesses.

That the General Purposes Committee be instructed to consider and report what measures they recommend should be taken for the appointment of a Town Clerk, in the room of the late Thomas Standbridge, Esq., deceased; and what amendments or alterations, if any, they recommend should be made in the existing arrangements for conducting the business of the Town Clerk's office, with the salaries and remuneration that should be paid.

At a meeting of the Guardians held on March 3, Mr. Thompson, the former Levy Clerk, was elected Clerk to the Guardians, in place of Mr. Corder, resigned. At a meeting

of the House Committee held on March 5, Mr. J. Gough attended, and explained that the managers of the Servants' Training School would be willing to take five girls out of the Workhouse, and educate them as domestic servants, if the Guardians would contribute 3s. per week towards their maintenance. They desired to bestow the benefits of the institution on the really poor and deserving, and thought the best way to do so was by applying to the Guardians. It appeared that a similar offer had been made by a kindred institution some time back, but the Poor Law Board had refused to allow the payment of anything towards their support. The offer was favourably regarded by the committee, and it was resolved to recommend its acceptance, and the payment of 3s. per week as out-door relief.

On March 9, Mr. E. J. Hayes was appointed Town Clerk.

On March 20, it was announced that the late Mr. Thomas Crowley had bequeathed the sum of £10,000 to trustees for the foundation of an Orphan Asylum; and that he had also left handsome legacies to the local charities and institutions, amongst others, £1,000 to the Queen's Hospital, and £1,000 to the Town Mission. Of this gentleman his friend Mr. Alderman Henry Manton supplied the local papers with the following information:—

On the 1st of the present month was recorded in your obituary the death of Thomas Crowley, Esq. I think it due to the memory of my friend that some further notice should be taken of that event, as in many respects his life and death were remarkable; at least, well worthy of review. At a very early age he entered Birmingham, with the obligation to rise either by his own exertions, or remain poor for life. The trade to which he was apprentice—packing case maker—was not one to afford much scope for genius. Nevertheless, he brought to it industry and energy, and he prospered. He once told me that by hard work and rigid economy during his apprenticeship he saved £50; but, conforming to a prevalent practice in celebrating outcomes, and being urged by his master to be liberal, he spent the whole in treating his fellow-workmen and friends, at the Plough and Harrow, in the Hagley Road.

When a very young man he began business in a small way, to which he soon added dealing in timber, and whilst struggling manfully to get

on, he was nearly thrown back by his landlord imperatively requiring him to give up the premises he occupied. He, however, obtained others, and the apparent evil turned out to be a certain good. His business gradually extended, and in forty years of hard unflinching labour, strict economy, and wise speculation, he accumulated a large fortune.

It has been a common reproach that men who have made wealth in Birmingham have gone elsewhere to spend it. Not so with Mr. Crowley. After he had retired from business, he continued to live amongst us, with truly christian liberality, cheerfully contributing to the various benevolent objects which so large a community furnishes. Being in no respect a public man, taking but little part in public affairs, his loss, nevertheless, will be widely felt.

Intensely conscious of the responsibility which the possession of riches imposes, he was most anxious to apportion it so as to please the Great Giver by benefiting his fellow creatures. It was his habit to refuse to give help to unknown applicants, but his aid was generously given to the really needy, and most heartily afforded to those who were labouring to promote the physical, moral, and religious well-being of others, whether at home or abroad.

The charitable institutions of this town have lost a liberal supporter, but were remembered by him in prospect of death, which event took place after a brief illness, on Sunday morning, February 28th. His end was, indeed, peace; without even a momentary struggle with the last enemy, he passed into the regions of eternal blessedness.

In January of the present year he gave to trustees the sum of £10,000 for the establishment of a Girls' Orphan Asylum, in the hope that his fellow-townsmen would aid in the support of such an institution. He has also bequeathed the following legacies, free of duty :—To the Baptist Missionary Society, £1,000; Baptist Home Missionary Society, £1,000; Baptist Building Fund, formed in 1824, £1,000; London Missionary Society, £500; the Home Missionary Society, £500; Birmingham Town Mission Society, £1,000; Baptist Birmingham and Midland Building Fund, £500; Baptist Irish Society, £300; National Society for Aged and Infirm Baptist Ministers, £1,000; Particular Baptist Society, formed in 1817, £300; British Bible Society, in London, £300; Colonial Mission Society, £500; Birmingham General Hospital, £500; Birmingham Accident Fund, £200; Queen's Hospital, £1,000; General Dispensary, £300; Deaf and Dumb Institution, £1,000; Blind Asylum, £500; Eye Hospital, £500; Homœopathic Hospital, £300; Crowley's Orphanage, £100.

Hoping the example of the deceased may influence others,

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. Manton.

On April 27, Mr. Toulmin Smith died at Lancing, in the 53rd year of his age. The following biographical sketch of the deceased appeared in the *Daily Post*, May 3:—

Birmingham has lost one of her worthiest and most devoted sons by the death of Mr. Toulmin Smith, at Lancing, Sussex, on Wednesday last, in the fifty-third year of his age. For some months past his health had been failing, and since a sort of sun-stroke, in July, 1868, he had never been thoroughly in health. From the beginning of the present year he had been less and less able to follow the exacting duties of a laborious life, and in one of his ordinary relaxations, on the quiet shore at Lancing, he has somewhat suddenly been removed from amongst us in the full vigour of his mind, and with reasonable hope of many years of further useful labour to his country and his native town.

Mr. Toulmin Smith was the eldest son of the late Mr. William Hawkes Smith, who, forty or fifty years ago, occupied so prominent a place in all the good works of our town. Wherever education was to be extended, learning cultivated, or true citizenship promoted, William Hawkes Smith, was always ready with his personal energy and generous support. The family to which he belonged had held honourable positions in the town for five hundred years. One of his ancesters formed one of the original founders of Deritend Chapel, in 1381, and some of the property in Deritend—the Old Crown House, for example—had descended in an unbroken line with all its old documents complete, for nearly five hundred years. In all the great work of the growth of our town some members of the family had ever taken an active part, and as late as the last century Joseph Smith was a 'captain of industry,' a bell-founder near Birmingham, and resided at Hay Hall. The family had long been closely associated with the Presbyterian Dissenters of Birmingham—for so many years the home of persecuted Nonconformists—and had during its long residence amongst us, produced many honourable names.

Mr. Toulmin Smith was born in Birmingham on 29th May, 1816, and thus in a few weeks would have completed the 53rd year of his age. From his father's precept and example he had early gained a love of literature, and a devotion to public work. In 1826, while yet a mere youth, he had, with his father's permission, prepared and published 'A Popular View of the Progress of Philosophy among the Ancients,' and had even previously written 'An Introduction to the Latin Language;' but these early works, although displaying remarkable industry and literary skill, were disowned by the maturer judgment of their author in after years.

Although called to 'the Bar' in 1849, Mr. Smith's literary tastes continued, and his untiring industry induced him to explore new fields

in literary research. In an age when such matters were little studied, his Anglo-Saxon instinct led him to the study of the Northern literature, whence our own civilisation came. He studied Icelandic, Danish, Norse; he familiarised himself with the Eddas, Sagas, and mythology of the North; He studied the history and politics of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Iceland, and Scandinavia generally, and his researches brought forth good fruit in his excellent volume, 'On the Discovery of America by the Northmen in the Tenth Century,' published with maps and plates in 1839. This original and learned work, full of most curious results of researches into documents whose very existence was then scarcely known, led to the conferring of the honour of membership of the Society of Northern Antiquaries of Copenhagen—a tribute well deserved and highly prized. During the past thirty years the volume of Mr. Smith, half-forgotten here, has been fully appreciated across the Atlantic, and later writers have not hesitated to copy his conclusions, and borrow the facts which he had found with so much labour and skill.

In 1846 he published the most valuable and important of all his numerous works, 'The Parish: Its Obligations and Powers, Its Officers, and Their Duties' (which reached a second edition in 1857), and which forms not only one of the most valuable legal and constitutional treatises, but one of the most curious and interesting volumes of its class ever yet compiled. Long years of patient study among musty old records in village vestries, long hours of careful copying of old, half-forgotten byelaws and minutes, a hearty appreciation of the principle of self-government as opposed to general centralisation and government by irresponsible commissions, had enabled Mr. Smith to perform an inconceivable labour with indomitable perseverance and curious literary skill. As a record of the principles which have for nearly a thousand years governed and guided local rule, which have developed the hearty central life of English liberty, which have given us freedom amidst untold dangers, and have enabled us to pass unscathed through silent revolutions which have shaken less vital, less stable, nations to their base, and crumbled them into ruins, 'The Parish' is one of our most important and most valuable works.

In 1848-49, when central Europe was convulsed and Austria skaken by the national rising in Hungary against the Austrian tyranny and contempt of Hungarian laws, before even Kossuth was known by name, and when the Hungarian protest was but little understood, Mr. Smith, by his quiet study long before, had become familiar with all the details of the quarrel and the contest for 'old rights,' and was one of the very few men in England or Europe who understood the whole case. In 1849, his 'Parallels between the Constitution and Constitutional History of England and Hungary,' showed not only a minute knowledge of the special facts, but proved an eloquent and informing appeal on the

'championship of free institutions, the supremacy of the law,' and aroused and directed that intelligent sympathy for Hungary which first found public expression in England by a meeting in the old Odd Fellows' Hall, in King Street, and rose to enthusiasm when the exiled patriot, Louis Kossuth, was welcomed in the Birmingham Town Hall, and delivered his magnificent oration on the history of his unhappy land.

Not only in this great foreign struggle—not revolution—for right and liberty, and the good old constitutions which the fathers had handed down, but in our own great struggles too, Mr. Toulmin Smith—a Liberal by instinct, education, and research, and not a mere leveller, who had learned the popular party cry—was ever eloquent in favour of the spirit, if not the letter, of our old institutions under which so much national glory had been gained. While emphatically a Liberal, and even a party man, he had long learned to see beyond the clouds of dust raised by the conflicts of the day that certain old principles were eternal and immutable ; that the cry of the hour was not always wise, or right, or just ; that a present evil might be repressed at the cost of a great future good if the old foundations were shaken or the main walls removed. Hence he looked with intelligent suspicion and distrust on the centralising spirit of our time. He contended, with extraordinary learning and logical power, that 'Government by Commissions was Pernicious and Illegal,' and in his report on the 'Right Holding of the Coroner's Court' (1859), and numerous other pamphlets, he fought the great fight against the centralisation of the day. He held, not as a mere superstition, or prejudice, or hereditary dogma (for his antecedents were against his convictions) that business, local and national, was best done when men minded their own affairs, undertook a limited business, and did it well ; and that the modern machinery for metropolising everything was unconstitutional, inefficient, and disastrous. In season, and out of season, he held to his good old historic doctrine, based upon large research, upon reading probably unsurpassed, upon a love of liberty worthy of the Cromwellian heroes, upon a Christian spirit which knew no limits to man's freedom of life and thought. The apostleship of parochialism, the praise of local self-government, the untiring advocacy of purely English precedents as opposed to French philosophies and German government, was the ruling passion of Mr. Toulmin Smith's useful, honourable, and patriotic career.

In 1855, Mr. Smith, in the same spirit, and with the same skill, published a most useful volume, 'The Law of Nuisances and Sewerage Works,' which reached a fourth edition in 1867. Although chiefly professional and technical, this remarkable work stood on the basis of English law, and clearly showed by numerous examples that the common law of England—the unwritten law, the practice and custom of centuries, fully empowered all lawful authorities to suppress nuisances, even if no general Act like that of 1855 had been passed. In this, as in fact in all his

works, Mr. Smith was not a mere 'letter' lawyer, but was penetrated with the spirit of the English Constitution 'that no man, nor body of men, nor Corporation, can be allowed, in the exercise of any occupation, or powers, or enjoyment, to do anything that will lesson the equal opportunity for the exercise of occupation, powers, or enjoyment by others.'

As a Barrister-at-Law of Lincoln's Inn, Mr. Smith had long resided in London, but he never forgot his native town, nor ceased to take an intelligent interest in her affairs; and one of his most ardent hopes was 'to return to Birmingham, and end his days' in well-earned repose.

In September, 1863, a letter in the *Daily Post*, on the apparently imminent destruction of the Old Crown House in Deritend, led to a rejoinder from Mr. Smith, as the present representative of nearly five centuries of ownership, that he, at any rate, would never consent to its destruction, but would do all within his means and power to preserve it as it had come down to him. The interest taken in the subject induced him to write and publish (late in 1863) 'The Traditions of the Old Crown House in Der-Yat-End, in the Lordship of Birmingham, with some notice of English Gilds,' and in this volume some of the most valuable, but forgotten or neglected facts in the early history of our town, were most eloquently set forth. In the following year (1864) another purely local work, 'Men and Names: Founders, Freeholders, and Indwellers, from the Thirteenth to the Sixteenth Century, with Particulars as to the Earliest Church of the Reformation Built and Endowed in England,' again rescued some most important national, as well as local facts, from tde dust of ancient deeds. In both these works the same personal characteristics were displayed: a passionate love of the old town where he was born, as well as the spirit of old times, an untiring industry and microscopic care in the collection and examination of facts, a love of learning worthy of a Dryasdust, and a spirit of liberty and a passion for freedom, of which any patriot might be proud. If Mr. Smith had left only these two volumes behind him he would have earned, and well deserved, the greatest honour for his original contributions to that 'History of Birmingham,' which he had fondly hoped some day to write when the more pressing labours of his life had closed; but the hand has forgotten its cunning, and the pen has fallen from the fingers, and the weary eyes are closed for ever.

One phrase upon the title-page of the 'Old Crown House,' that 'some notice of English Gilds,' forms a sad reminder that the last great work of Mr. Smith's long studies is left unfinished by his premature decease. His 'English Gilds,' an account of those remarkable social ordinances of the middle-ages, which formed the sick clubs, and benefit clubs, and trade societies, of old times, whose history has been so long unwritten, whose influences were so continuous and extensive, was originally projected as one of the Great Rolls Series of Publications, illustrative of

English History. With a generous feeling, however, that his own personal emolument would be unworthy if a comparatively limited sale of such a work were secured, Mr. Smith, regardless of his pecuniary remuneration, preferred to have his volume issued to the larger circle of readers of the Early English Text Society, at a moderate cost. His own ill-health for some months, and other circumstances, which need no further allusion now, caused the postponement of the issue of the 'English Gilds,' as originally announced. Fortunately the larger part of the work has been printed, and the whole, including Glossary and Introduction, is practically ready for the press. The Early English Text Society will thus do a great injustice to the memory of one of its heartiest supporters, and the compiler of its most original and most valuable work, if its committee does not arrange for the immediate publication of Mr. Smith's laborious and deeply cherished work. The character and purposes of the English Gilds, their history, their MSS; the Gilds of London, Norwich, Lynn, Beverley, York, Lancaster, Stamford, Ludlow, Coventry, Worcester, Stratford-on-Avon, Birmingham, Bristol, Exeter, show how wide and varied is the interest of the work; while the old ordinances of 'Wynchestre' and Tettenhall alone, which have never before been examined or published, will give the volume a high and honourable place among the best works on English story.

Not only in local, but in national affairs, Mr. Smith had long taken a prominent and honourable part. Not only in his professional character as a Parliamentary barrister, but as an authority on all points of constitutional law, his aid was constantly sought, and gladly given. For seven years he conducted single-handed 'The Parliamentary Remembrancer,' not merely a record of Parliamentary proceedings, a handbook of 'bills' in progress, and of votes recorded, but a learned and practical series of illustrations of present legislation by past. In the pages of the 'Remembrancer' are to be found some singularly able treatises on Parliamentary practice and English law, on the growth of public opinion, on the great questions of the day, and all so well digested and systematically arranged that the cessation of the 'Remembrancer' was a legislative loss. His intercourse with the most eminent public men of our time was constant and intimate, and his correspondence, not only with the statesmen of England, but of Germany and France and the United States, with Louis Kossuth, with Pulsky, and the Hungarian patriots, is a sufficient proof of the estimation in which his learning and independence and integrity were held by men of all parties and all creeds.

During the last year of his life his ever-growing love for the town where he was born led him to ask permission to examine the records of Lench's Trust, and his researches were rewarded by many valuable facts, which, with the consent of the Trustees (who, as he remarked, had from the first most honestly and faithfully executed their trust), he was about

to publish some of the most important facts, when his hand was stricken by death. So late as February last he was preparing to read a paper on the Manuscript Materials for the History of Birmingham for the proposed Archæological Section of the Midland Institute, but his health gave way, and the paper was postponed. He had, however, with his accustomed energy collected 'a mass of matter,' and this he proposed to offer to the society in which he felt so warm an interest, and for which he intended to do much good work.

While literature was his favourite study, and truly national politics his favourite pursuit, he had devoted much time to geology, and mineralogy, and natural history generally, and had collected a valuable museum illustrative of each of these branches of scientific research. His library was extensive and varied, full of rare and curious books on his favourite subjects, Norse literature, English law and history, and he had formed the finest known collection of the Civil War Tracts. Every book about him, and he lived among them, had been carefully read and marked, and he could find in an instant any extract which he might happen to require. Few private readers had bought more books, and very few knew them so well. For years he had hoarded up everything associated with his father's literary life and everything relating to Birmingham history, and if he had lived a few years longer he would have re-written from original and authentic *data* in our local and national archives, the history of our town. His great interest in our local history was constantly shown by his frequent and valuable contributions to our Notes and Queries column, and his patient researches in the Record Office often resulted in important additions of forgotten local facts. His latest published letter appeared in these columns only a fortnight since, and he had intended to review the original foundation of Deritend Chapel in 1381, the "presentation" to the chapel by the popular voice and the threatened "disestablishment and disendowment" (as he called it), of a popular right of presentation which was one of the first fruits of the Reformation spirit of Wycliffe's days, and which had been exercised unchallenged for four hundred years.

While in controversy, having formed his opinions with judicial care, he was a very *malleus hereticorum*, while his tone was sometimes dogmatic, from the depth and sincerity of his convictions, he was in every respect an honourable, just, and truthful man. While he was methodical in mind, orderly in habit, keen in perception, untiring in labour, deep in learning, ready in resource, while he maintained his own convictions with energy and power, he had a kindly regard for all who differed from him, a large appreciation of genuine humour, and he was in private life one of the most courteous, kindly, and genial of men. While he honoured the past, and the memory of his fathers, he was no blind adherent of a falling cause, no obstinate opponent of the needful changes of the age. The ruling passion, the guide of his life, the dream of his youth, the

glory of his manhood and his latter years, was the intelligent freedom of the people, based on the 'ancient ways.' Sensitive in spirit and generous in heart, deeply attached to his friends, and honoured and admired by all who knew him well, his greatest love was the town where his family had flourished, and where he himself was born. Amid all the worry of a London lawyer's life, when far away in the United States, when stricken down by 'grievous illness,' almost his last written words, 'I long to return to Birmingham,' expressed the passion of his life. This morning his body is consigned to a quiet grave in Hornsey church-yard, far away from the town he loved so well and worked so hard for, with such intelligent industry, and such unselfish aims ; and while his public labours will ever be remembered by those who honour our town and strive for its best advances, his personal memory will ever be most regarded by those who knew him best, and his good example of local patriotism will not have been given in vain.

On May 11, James Johnstone, M.D., died at Leamington, in the 64th year of his age. On the 13th the following sketch of the deceased appeared in *Aris's Birmingham Gazette*:—

He was the son of Dr. Edward Johnstone, a physician of great eminence, and one of the founders of the General Hospital ; and, indeed, for many generations past there have been members of the family who have signalised themselves in the same profession. A letter signed "Old Times,' published in the *Gazette* of December 22, 1864—a few days after Dr. James Johnstone sent in his resignation of the post of senior physician to the General Hospital, which he had held for upwards of thirty years—says, "We know that Edinburgh has possessed its first, second, and third Monro ; Leeds its first, second, and third Hey—'all good men and true ;' but the first, second and third Johnstones that Birmingham has to boast of are men as eminent, as honoured, and as true." "We may even go back," continues the writer, "to a fourth Johnstone—well known here—Dr. J. Johnstone, of Worcester, the forefather of those before named. He was peculiarly eminent for his treatment of fever, which fame has descended to his relatives ; and curiously enough, he was famed for the treatment of the fever which was then called 'malignant sore throat' by mineral acids, especially by the use of (the then called) muriatic acid. A fever, accompanied by sore throat (very fatal at that time) was epidemic, particularly in Kidderminster and this neighbourhood, and a letter is still extant from Dr. Ash, the founder of the General Hospital, in which the disease now called diptheria is exactly described, and which by the Johnstones was treated with the mineral acids, thus using, under another name, the chlorine and hydrochloric acid, so highly thought of at this day for the present

epidemic." From the same source we learn that Dr. Edward Johnstone, the father of Dr. James Johnstone, was the colleague of Dr. Ash from the year 1779, when the hospital was founded, and continued to perform his duties most assiduously for a period of more than thirty years. "He possessed a most charitable heart," our excellent informant goes on to say, "and kindly cheerful nature." Among other things, it is remembered by those who knew him, how he and his young family used to be seen going into the small white cottage near the old gate of Edgbaston Hall, to teach—what do our readers imagine?—an adult school of old and young men and women, from Harborne and the neighbourhood, whose fingers, cramped with hard work, could hardly be made to form the letters in their copy-books, and whose unaccustomed eyes were long in making out printed words, for the much-desired purpose of reading their Bibles at home! We are here speaking of what was done within the last forty years. In that school room it is probable that our present or rather that our late senior physician learnt (unconsciously perhaps) his lesson of kind consideration for the feelings of others, which has ever been one of his marked characteristics.

Dr. Edward Johnstone retired from the post which he had so honourably filled in connection with the General Hospital in March, 1801; and his younger brother, Dr. John Johnstone, was elected to the vacancy. Of Dr. John Johnstone the writer whom we have already quoted says "he was distinguished by a great simplicity of medical treatment, and a manner which, though less conciliating and kind than his elder brother, was yet of a nature to inspire great faith in 'the Doctor' on the minds of all his patients." But this brief notice from "Times Past" scarcely does justice to Dr. John Johnstone. He was eminent—very eminent—not only in his own profession, but as a writer. His "Life of Dr. Parr" has been described as a "fearless, manly, and noble specimen of biography." Bishop Butler, whom "the doctor" counted as one of his intimate friends, of him says, "He was not like some persons of quick intellect, esteemed clever in general society, but could maintain his place as a scholar among scholars—a case not so frequent as some may imagine." The same distinguished dignitary elsewhere testifies "that for upwards of forty years he held a distinguished station among the most eminent of his professional brethren, not only in the town and neighbourhood of Birmingham, but to a much greater distance than provincial celebrity usually extends. Possessing great natural acuteness of mind, he was quick in detecting the nature of disease, and deciding on the mode of treatment, which was always simple." His daughter married Dr. Hook, the present Dean of Chichester.

After holding the office of physician to the Hospital more than thirty years, Dr. John Johnstone resigned in 1833, when he was succeeded by his nephew, Dr. James Johnstone, the subject of the present memoir.

His career is still fresh in the memory of most of our townsmen, and it is pretty generally known how worthy a follower he has been of worthy ancestors.

Dr. Johnstone was educated at Cambridge, and went afterwards to Edinburgh, London, and Paris. His sound sense and high principles of honour, with unflinching truthfulness, gave him a high position in his profession, and he was looked up to as an example of all that is kind and courteous in manner. Modesty as to his own acquirements and knowledge was sometimes carried to an extreme, and thereby prevented his opinion from gaining the confidence to which it was entitled. He was connected with the Queen's College from its commencement, and was professor of *materia medica* for many years; and published a small treatise on the subject. For more than thirty years he was physician to the Hospital, and during that time he gained the affection of all his colleagues and the esteem of all who knew him. He sent in his resignation in December, 1864, and at the meeting at which his letter of resignation was read the following resolution was passed unanimously, and with many expressions of regard for his character and regret at their loss:—"That this Board records its regret and deep sense of the loss which the General Hospital has sustained by the resignation of Dr. James Johnstone, the senior physician to the institution for upwards of thirty years. The great talents, the varied acquirements, and the eminent professional skill and experience of Dr. Johnstone have been assiduously devoted to relieve the sick and suffering poor who have been placed under his charge, and to the active promotion of all measures which were calculated to advance the best interests of the charity. By the retirement of Dr. Johnstone from his appointment, the Board has been deprived of a valuable friend and colleague, whose able, prudent counsels, sterling personal worth, and unwavering urbanity, have contributed largely to uphold the dignity of its proceedings, and to maintain and extend the reputation of the Hospital. The quarterly Board cannot permit its official connection with Dr. Johnstone to be thus severed without expressing, however inadequately, its appreciation of his unblemished honour and his high personal and professional character. It would at the same time offer its warmest thanks for his long-continued and invaluable services, and its assurance of its most cordial and sincere, as well as its lasting respect."

It is impossible to convey the high estimation in which Dr. Johnstone was held; but some idea of it may be gained from the four following resolutions which were passed by the Board at their next meeting:—1, "That the Weekly Board be requested to suggest some means by which the Governors may testify the high estimation in which they hold Dr. Johnstone's valuable services;" 2, "That Dr. Johnstone be respectfully requested to sit for his portrait, and that it be added to the portraits now

suspended in the Board Room;" 3, "That a subscription list be opened to defray the expenses, and that the following gentlemen be appointed a committee to carry the foregoing resolution into effect, viz.:—Dr. Evans, Dr. Bell Fletcher, Mr. J. C. Cohen, Mr. Alderman Cutler, Major Elwell, Mr. Timothy Kenrick, Mr. S. S. Lloyd, Mr. William Sharp, and Mr. George Whateley;" and 4, "That Mr. Timothy Kenrick be appointed treasurer." Subscriptions were given by gentlemen in the room, and in a short time a very handsome sum was raised. The portrait, which now adorns the Board Room at the General Hospital, was painted by Mr. Roden, and is generally considered to be the best work of that gifted artist, and one of the most speaking likenesses anywhere to be found. The engraving from this portrait, by Mr. Doo, is reckoned to be his *chef d'œuvre.*

On retiring from the General Hospital, he took up his residence at Leamington, and the universal good wishes which followed him to his retirement are thus eloquently expressed by the writer whom we have already had occasion so frequently to quote:—"We trust his health is good, and likely to remain so for many a year, and we know that if the feelings of respect and esteem of all his colleagues could have retained him, they would be happy to meet him still, during the whole of their own periods of service. Surely, when we find that the poor of Birmingham and its neighbourhood have been served in deed and in truth, kindly and gratuitously, by one family during a period of 90 years and upwards, it is impossible that the retirement from the duties which have devolved upon the Johnstone family at the General Hospital can be permitted to pass without special notice. If it were not for the well-known sensitiveness of our late senior physician, we should not easily be withheld from adding a few more words to record the universal feeling of respect and gratitude which every pupil who has ever been brought into contact with Dr. Johnstone holds towards him. His manner has ever been so kind, courteous, and encouraging—a pattern, in fact, of the high-toned politeness of the generation fast disappearing. Whatever may be in store for the medical department of the General Hospital in 'times to come,' we doubt if they can surpass, even if they may equal, the honour and dignity which has shone round the office of physician in the 'Times Past.'"

About two years ago Dr. Johnstone and his cousin, Mr. D. W. Crompton, the eminent surgeon of this town, presented the General Hospital with a valuable collection of books, to form the nucleus of a library. A room has been handsomely fitted up for the purpose, and the library is now tolerably complete.

About a fortnight ago Dr. Johnstone was seized with an illness, but it was not considered of a dangerous character until a week ago, when he became much worse. He died at eight o'clock on Tuesday evening, in the 64th year of his age.

He married Mary Maria, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Webster, of Penns. He had a very large family, nearly all of whom survive; and although none of his sons have entered the profession to which their forefathers have added great lustre, they have yet distinguished themselves very highly in other ways. One has achieved considerable distinction as an officer in the Indian army, and another, who is connected with Her Majesty's navy, has had the singular good fortune to have conferred upon him a post in Prince Alfred's ship.

On the same day, (May 11), Mr. John Frederick Feeney died at Edgbaston, in his 62nd year. In a brief notice of the deceased the *Daily Post* of the 13th had the following sympathetic and appreciative remarks:—

In the discharge of our professional duties, it frequently falls to our lot to record in these columns the passing away of men who, by their public services, deserve some special mention of their life and labours. To-day this task comes closer home to us, for we have to announce, with deep sorrow, the death of Mr. Feeney, our friend and colleague in the conduct of this journal. For several years the steady progress of a fatal malady had caused his retirement from the active management of the business, and on Tuesday night he peacefully entered upon his rest. The history of Mr. Feeney's career in Birmingham is indeed the history of the later developments of newspaper energy amongst us. He came to this town in 1835, in connection with a newspaper, long since forgotten, called the *Reformer*. Early in 1837 he became a member of the staff of the *Midland Counties Herald*, and continued on that paper until 1844, when the *Birmingham Journal*, at that time a declining property, was offered for sale. For some years previously it had exercised great political influence in Birmingham; but, while nothing could exceed the vigour of its politics, and the intellectual ability of its conductors, the business element was wholly absent, and its circulation had fallen to a few hundred copies a week. Exactly twenty-five years ago Mr. Feeney became the purchaser of the *Journal*. His thorough business habits, his tact, his unvarying courtesy, and his capacity for hard work, speedily told upon the fortunes of this paper. The twelve hundred a week became in a few years twelve thousand, and the *Journal* took its position amongst the leading newspapers of the provinces. The establishment of the *Daily Post* in 1857 is an event within the recollection of the great majority of our readers; and we need only say in connection with this brief memoir that no inconsiderable share of the success of the new venture was due to the practical good sense of Mr. Feeney. Apart from his profession, Mr. Feeney lived a peaceful and uneventful life; contented with the discharge of his private duties, and in the enjoyment

of domestic happiness. It is not well that the personal relations of a newspaper proprietary should be obtruded upon the public, and our readers will bear witness that we do not often err in this respect; but it may be pardoned if the writer of this brief notice, who has been associated in the conduct of this journal with his departed friend for the long period of five-and-twenty years, should for once forget the rule by paying this tribute to the memory of one of the purest minds that God ever created, and as kind a heart as ever beat in human breast.

On May 15, a meeting was held in the Town Hall, under the presidency of Lord Lyttelton, on the subject of the Working Men's International Exhibition. The Hon. Auberon Herbert, Mr. J. W. Probyn, and Mr. Paterson attended as a deputation from the London Committee, and explained the objects of the proposed Exhibition. Mr. J. A. Langford proposed, and Mr. C. Hibbs seconded, the following resolution which was passed unanimously:—

That this meeting, having heard the statements of the hon. secretaries of the Working Men's International Exhibition, expresses its warm sympathy in the objects in view, and pledges itself to do all in its power to promote the success of the undertaking.

On the motion of the Mayor, seconded by Mr. Keen, it was resolved:—

That the following be appointed a committee, with power to add to their number, for the purpose of promoting the objects of the Exhibition:—Messrs. J. S. Wright, J. A. Langford, A. Keen, C. Hibbs, D. Sargeant, J. S. Wilkinson, T. Barnes, W. Poole, W. C. Aitken, and A. Freeth.

At a meeting of the Town Council, on June 15, the Estate and Buildings Committee reported on the proposed new corporate buildings. The committee stated:—"The cost of these erections, as nearly as can be estimated, would be, in Mr. Waterhouse's opinion, as follows:—Corporate buildings, £37,000; Assize courts, £76,000; Judges' lodgings, £12,500; total, £125,500. This expenditure would allow of the buildings being faced with stone, and erected in the most substantial and handsome manner. Built, however, in a more economical manner, at some sacrifice of appearance,

both externally and internally, the cost need not, in his opinion, exceed the following, viz.:—Corporate buildings, £31,000; Assize courts, £63,000; Judges' lodgings, £10,500; total, £104,500." A resolution "that the committee be authorised to advertise for plans for the new corporate buildings, and submit the same to the Council for approval," was moved, and, with the following addition, was passed:—"And that the Estate and Buildings Committee confer with the General Purposes Committee, with the view to ascertain if it is the intention of her Majesty's Government to introduce a bill in Parliament founded on the report of the Judicature Committee, and to report the same to the Town Council."

On July 6, a conference was held between the Overseers of the parish of Birmingham and the representatives of the various schools and charities in the town, on the subject of rating such schools and institutions. There was a large number of representatives of various charities present. After the conference, the Overseers held a meeting, and passed the following resolution:—

That the poor-rates in regard of Sunday and Ragged Schools be written off as irrecoverable; and that, in the opinion of the Overseers, it is inexpedient for the present to enforce rates on the other poor schools and charities in the town.

At a meeting of the Town Council on August 3, the Mayor read the following letter from Mr. Josiah Mason:—

Norwood House, Erdington,
August 2nd, 1869.

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I herewith send you a printed copy of the foundation deed of the Orphanage and Almshouses which I have lately built here, and endowed with upwards of a thousand acres of freehold land, in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, besides land and buildings in Birmingham itself. This deed of endowment, although made more than twelve months ago, is, as you may be aware, not legally complete until twelve months after its execution. That period having now elapsed, it is proper I should make this communication to you officially, for the following reason:—One of the most serious difficulties I had in settling the endowment scheme was

how to provide against the administration of the charity falling under the exclusive control of any religious sect or party, or the funds being diverted from their proper purpose. After much consideration I have concluded that the most effectual means of accomplishing my object was to place my trust under the superintendence of my fellow-townsmen, acting, through their municipal representatives, in such a mode that whilst it should impose the smallest amount of trouble upon the Town Council, should really place in their hands the means of securing the efficient administration of property, which is already considerable, and which, from its nature, must increase with the prosperity of Birmingham. During my own life, or so long as I have health and strength, I trust to be able, with the assistance of the seven gentlemen I have named trustees, to continue the administration of the charity. Immediately after my death, if the Town Council will do me the honour to render the slight assistance I ask in the promotion of my scheme, they will have to elect an equal number of trustees to those I have named, making the number fourteen, viz., seven private and seven official trustees. The seven official trustees may be either members of the Council, or not, as the Council for the time being may determine. Whenever any vacancy shall happen in the number of official trustees, nominated by the Council, the Council will fill up such vacancy. Whenever any vacancy happens in the number of private trustees, the whole body of trustees (in which the Town Council will always have the advantage of seven votes to six) will fill up that vacancy. The only restriction I have imposed on the trustees is that they shall be Protestant laymen, resident within ten miles of the Orphanage. In order also that the Town Council may have more frequent opportunities of supervising the finances of the trust than would be afforded by the appointment of trustees (which after the first appointment would be infrequent), I have provided that the accounts of the charity shall be audited by a public accountant once a year, and that a copy of such accounts shall be transmitted to the Town Clerk of the borough. By these means I trust that my charity may always have the advantage of a small executive body elected by, and therefore commanding the respect of, their fellow-townsmen, and preserved from all improper influences, by being placed under the control of the public opinion of the town. It will be a great satisfaction to me to know that the Town Council of the borough of Birmingham will be willing to accept the trust I have reposed in them, and for that purpose I shall be glad if you bring the matter before them in due course.

I am, dear Mr. Mayor,

Yours truly,

JOSIAH MASON.

Henry Holland, Esq.,
Mayor of Birmingham.

The letter was referred to the General Purposes Committee, with instruction to report their opinion as to the mode in which the Council, on behalf of the borough, might best testify their high appreciation of Mr. Mason's noble charity.

On August 18, the Right Hon. B. Disraeli visited the Small Arms Factory, at Small Heath. On the 20th, the Rev. D. N. Adler, Chief Rabbi of the United Jewish Congregations of Great Britain, arrived in Birmingham on a pastoral visit. On the 23rd was commenced the Trades Union Congress, which continued its sittings during the week. A large number of papers on subjects connected with, and interesting to, working men were read and discussed. It was considered a very successful congress. On the 30th, Mrs. J. S. Wright laid the memorial stone of the new schools to be erected in connection with the People's Chapel, Great King Street.

On the 22nd of August, it was announced that the Senate and Trustees of Greenville and Tusculum College, Tennessee, had unanimously conferred on Mr. J. A. Langford the degree of LL.D., "as a mark of their high appreciation of the value of his literary labours."

The New Church of St. Anne was consecrated by the Bishop of the Diocese, on October the 22nd.

At the Meeting of the Town Council, on November 9, Mr. Councillor Thomas Prime, was elected Mayor for the ensuing year.

At the Meeting of the Council, on November 26, Mr. Biggs moved a resolution to the effect that the Public Works Committee should be authorised and instructed to confer with the Birmingham Waterworks Company, to ascertain if the Company were willing to transfer, by agreement, the whole of their Waterworks to the Council, and if so disposed, the terms upon which this transfer could be made, and to report to the Council. After a long discussion, the further consideration of the subject was adjourned for a month. At the renewed discussion on December 14, this resolution was, with a few modifications, adopted by the Council, in pre-

ference to an amendment moved by Mr. Alderman Avery, to refer the matter to a special committee.

The Annual Cattle, Poultry and Dog Shows, were held on November 29, 30, December 1 and 2. The total admissions at Bingley Hall were, 40,729; receipts at the door, £1,361; for poultry sales, £1,120. The admissions to the Dog Show were, 18,877; receipts at the door, £886 12s.; for the sale of dogs, £457 9s.

POLITICAL RECORD.

On January 29, 1861, Messrs. Scholefield and Bright addressed their constituents in the Town Hall, the Mayor (Mr. A. Ryland) presiding. Mr. Bright's speech on this occasion was on the enormous expenditure of the country; and at its conclusion the following resolution, moved by Alderman T. Lloyd, and seconded by Alderman J. Baldwin, was passed unanimously:—

This meeting, viewing with serious apprehension the vast and increasing expenditure of the State, involving oppressive taxation, earnestly trusts that the next Session of Parliament will give immediate attention to the subject, with a view to the enforcement of the strictest economy in every department of the State; but inasmuch as this meeting is of opinion that the only effectual remedy for excessive expenditure is to be found in the full and free representation of the people in Parliament, that a petition embodying these views be signed by the Mayor, on behalf of the meeting, and be forwarded to the House of Commons immediately on their assembling.

The Radical Reform League held a meeting on March 4, Mr. J. Taylor, jun. in the chair, at which the following resolution was adopted:—

That the deliberate and dishonourable abandonment of Reform by her Majesty's Government having again thrown the question before the country, it is the duty of Reformers and all classes promptly and earnestly to combine to force upon the attention of the House of Commons the national desire for a thorough reform. This League, therefore, calls upon the attention of the people in every town in the kingdom to petition Parliament during the present Session, praying for an immediate consideration of the subject, and for the adoption of a measure which shall satisfy the just requirements of the people, by including manhood suffrage, vote by ballot, and equal electoral districts.

A public meeting of the League was held in the Masonic Hall on May 8, Mr. Alderman Baldwin in the chair, at which Mr. Washington Wilks explained the policy and method of action it was proposed to adopt to obtain a complete Reform Bill. Resolutions were passed in accordance with the principles contained in the resolution given above.

The members for the borough addressed their constituents at a town's meeting in the Town Hall, on December 18, the Mayor, Mr. C. Sturge, in the chair. They confined themselves principally to the subject of the American war, on which they entertained opposite opinions; Mr. Scholefield being decidedly pro-southern in his views, and Mr. Bright as decidedly in favour of the north. After the honourable gentlemen had spoken, the following resolution, moved by Mr. Alderman T. Lloyd and seconded by Mr. Caleb Lawden, was passed with acclamation:—

That the best thanks of this meeting are due and are hereby given to Messrs. Scholefield and Bright for the addresses they have delivered. This meeting also desires to express its satisfaction with the manner in which they have discharged their Parliamentary duties, and its entire confidence that they will embrace every opportunity of enforcing the reduction of the present large expenditure and of extending the liberties of the people.

There was scarcely any political action in the town in 1863; but on January 26, 1864, Messrs. Scholefield and Bright addressed their constituents in the Town Hall; the Mayor, Mr. W. Holliday, presided, and the following resolution, proposed by Mr. George Dixon and seconded by Mr. Alderman Manton, was adopted:—

The present House of Commons having been elected on the question of reform, and the majority of its members having pledged themselves to promote an extension of the franchise, this meeting records its opinion that the Parliament has failed in its duty in not having passed a measure which would have admitted a large number of the unenfranchised to a real share in the government of the nation. This meeting believes the present period to be favourable to the passing of such a measure, the necessity for which has on various occasions been enforced by her Majesty's Ministers, and by the leaders of both political parties.

Mr. Scholefield's speech was a defence of his conduct in relation to the American Civil War; and an answer to the question, why he had joined the Southern Confedracy Association. Mr. Bright's was directed against the land laws. A vote of thanks to the members, moved by Mr. R. W. Dale, and seconded by Mr. J. S. Wright, was carried with acclamation.

On January 18, 1865, the members for the borough again addressed their constituents in the Town Hall, Mr. Scholefield strongly advocating an extension of the suffrage, and Mr. Bright delivered a splendid speech on public affairs generally, and denounced the statement that the people were indifferent to Reform. At the close of his address, Mr. Alderman T. Lloyd moved and Mr. J. S. Wright seconded the following resolution, which was unanimously passed:—

That the best thanks of this meeting are due, and are hereby given, to Messrs. Scholefield and Bright, for their addresses; and this meeting also desires to express its unabated confidence in them as the parliamentary representatives of the borough.

A meeting of the Liberals was held in the Committee Room of the Town Hall, on February 17, at which the Birmingham Liberal Association was founded. The object of this association being to secure the Liberal representation of Birmingham; to assist in the election of Liberal Members for the county of Warwick; and to promote the general adoption of Liberal principles.

The following were the officers and committee for the first year:—President, Mr. P. H. Muntz; treasurer, Mr. John

Jaffray; hon. secretary, Mr. George Dixon; committee, Messrs. Councillor J. Baldwin, G. Baker, George Dawson, R. Fletcher, Alderman W. Holliday, W. Harris, B. Harris, Councillor H. Holland, G. J. Johnson, J. T. Keep, Alderman T. Lloyd, Alderman H. Manton, J. S. Manton, W. Middlemore, C. E. Mathews, Alderman T. Phillips, J. Pickering, Alderman C. Sturge, J. Taylor jun., Alderman A. Ryland, and J. S. Wright.

This year we had another general election. There was no opposition to the two members for the borough. The following are the addresses of Messrs. Scholefield and Bright to the electors.

London, June 29, 1865.

Gentlemen,

The present announcement by Government of the early dissolution of Parliament makes it incumbent upon me to state to you that it is my intention again to seek the honour of representing you in the House of Commons.

When, eighteen years ago, I first ventured to ask your suffrages, I laid before you at some length a statement of the principles by which I should be guided.

To those principles I have steadily adhered, and though I am sensible of many short comings, I have always done my best to justify the confidence you then so generously placed in me.

My public conduct is, I hope, too well known to you to render it necessary that I should have to enumerate the opinions and convictions which have governed, as they will still govern, my public actions. On the day of nomination I shall be prepared to state more in detail my views on the leading questions which must occupy the attention of the new Parliament. In the meantime, I place myself in your hands, simply assuring you that, should you again confer upon me the signal honour of becoming your representative, I shall be deeply grateful for the trust, and shall use every effort, by a firm adherence to those views in favour of extended freedom, the practical acknowledgment of which by the State is the sole security for good and staple Government, and by a faithful discharge of the duties imposed upon me, to render myself deserving of this renewed mark of your confidence.

I am, gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

William Scholefield.

London, June 29, 1865.

Gentlemen,

In a few days the Parliament will be dissolved, and you will be required to select representatives for a future House of Commons.

I fear the career of the House which is now about to separate is one which has given you much disappointment. The Election of 1859 was caused by the question of Suffrage Extension, and was intended to promote an advance, if not a settlement, of that question.

The House which was returned at that election has been disloyal to its pledges, and has neglected its first duty.

The Adminstration which, in 1859, climbed into office under the pretence of its devotion to the question of Parliamentary Reform, has violated its solemn pledges. Its chiefs have purposely betrayed the cause they undertook to defend, and its less eminent members have tamely acquiesced in that betrayal. The Ministry have, for six years, held office, which, but for promises they made and which they have broken, they could not have obtained possession of even for a single day. No Parliament, fairly elected by the nation, would have so treated its constituents, and no Administration, so treacherous to its professed principles, would have escaped without punishment from a Parliament honestly representing the people,

If I felt myself, in any degree, responsible for the conduct of the Parliament and the Administration on the question of Reform, I could not, without confusion of face, render you an account of my stewardship, and I could not hope that you would again select me as one of your representatives. But I am free from the guilt of your betrayal. I have denounced and resisted it to the utmost of my power.

The Parliament is about to expire—the Administration will soon undergo changes, or will totter on to its fall—but the question of Reform still lives, and at this moment, in the eyes of its opponents, takes a more distinct shape than at any other period since the passing of the Bill of 1832. I trust the result of the coming Election will show that, notwithstanding the treachery of official Statesmen, and the indifference of the expiring Parliament, the cause of freedom, based on a true representation of the nation, is advancing with an irresistible force, to its final triumph.

If the Electors of Birmingham, so honoured by past services in this cause, deem me worthy to speak for them and for it in the coming Parliament, I shall accept the trust with gratitude for the confidence they show me, and with an ernest desire to act worthily in their behalf and in their name.

I am,

With many thanks for your past kindness to me,

Very faithfully yours,

JOHN BRIGHT.

The nomination took place in the Town Hall, on July 12, at which Messrs. Scholefield and Bright addressed the burgesses, and were declared duly elected. Mr. Scholefield was nominated by Mr. Alderman T. Phillips and Mr. John Jaffray; and Mr. Bright, by Mr. George Dixon and Mr. Alderman H. Manton.

In the Northern Division of the county, however, a sharp and decisive contest took place. The newly-organised "Liberal Association," after many vain attempts to find a candidate, succeeded in inducing Mr. G. F. Muntz to stand in the Liberal interest, in opposition to the Conservative candidates, Mr. C. N. Newdegate and Mr. W. D. Bromley.

The nomination took place at Coleshill, on July 17th, and the election on the 20th, and resulted in the return of the two Conservatives. The following is the official declaration of the poll:—Newdegate, 3,159; Bromley, 2,873; Muntz, 2,408. A banquet was held in the Exchange Buildings, on the 7th of August to celebrate their return. There was a large attendance, and Mr. C. B. Adderley was in the chair.

At a meeting of the Midland Farmers' Club, held on October 5, the following letter from Mr. Bright, was read:—

Rochdale, September 30, 1865.

Dear Sir,

I am glad to hear that you are about to read a paper on the subject of the Game Laws. I do not think much good would be done by holding a meeting in Birmingham. The towns are known to be against the Game Laws, but so long as the county constituencies send game preservers to Parliament, the members for the towns can do nothing for the farmers.

It is about twenty years since I gave much time and labour with a view to relieve the farmers from the evil of the Game Laws; and I spent at least £300 in bringing before them and the public some of the facts of this great grievance. Up to this time nothing has been done in the way of relief, but, on the contrary, the laws which favour the preservation of game have been made more strict. I fear the evil has become, not less, but greater, and I see only one way in which any real improvement can be made. It can only be done by having in Parliament a larger number of representatives of the people, and fewer representatives of a class, and of the prejudices and usurpations of a class. How can this be brought about and secured? By the admission of another million of the people to the elective franchise, so that the House of Commons

may become truly representative of the true interests and wishes of the nation.

But there is one thing which the farmers may do for themselves whenever an election for a county takes place. At present they are not asked who shall pretend to represent them, but the lords and squires of the county name the candidate ; and, as a rule, the tenant farmers vote for him, and he enters the House to do the work of the lords and squires who selected him. A main part of that work is to keep guard over the laws which favour the preservation of game. I know how many reasons there are why a tenant should be disposed to support the nominee of his landlord. He feels in how many ways his landlord, or his landlord's agent, can annoy and injure him, and he submits to a power which he has not learned to resist. But the time is coming when tenants will dare to believe and act for themselves in the performance of their political duties. They can combine with great ease, and when combined, their power is irresistible. I hope the day may soon come when they will take the election of members for the counties in some degree into their own hands, and when this is done, their political and social deliverance will be secured.

You will see at once how easy it is for you to combine. Every farmer has a horse and a gig, or dogcart, or conveyance of some kind, so that he can go to the poll without any cost to himself. Farmers meet almost every week at their market town, and they can know the feelings of their class without difficulty. In every county they should select a "farmers' candidate." If a good tenant farmer can be selected, bring him forward ; if not, then some other respectable and intelligent man. If you can find a landowner who is willing to be just to the tenant farmers, both in his own private conduct and in respect of legislation which affects them, take him as your candidate, and give him a zealous support. You can contest a county almost at no expense. A subscription of one pound from each tenant will raise a sum large enough to pay for all the printing you will require ; and you can take yourselves and your neighbours to the poll at a trifling expense. The farmers' candidate will be the popular candidate. The Liberals in the towns will give him their support, and you will carry him into Parliament to do the work of the farmers and of the people, instead of that of the lords and squires.

Some will say I am advising you to work a revolution ; and so I am. It will be a revolution that will transfer the county representation from a dozen rich men or families to the real people of the counties. It will send members to Parliament who will care more for the rights and interests of the population than for the semi-barbarous sports of a class. When the tenant-farmers see their power, and arouse themselves to exert it, the days of the Game Laws are ended, and there will not be wanting just and good men among the landowners themselves, who will give them a hearty co-operation in the good work.

As to changes in the Game Laws, I see no great good in them. What you want is the repeal of all laws which are made with the object of favouring the preservation of game. The fundamental principle of the tenant farmers should be this: that they shall have absolute and undisputed ownership of, and control over all animals which live upon the produce of their land. They occupy land, and pay rent for it; they risk all they have—their money, their time, their labour, their hopes, their present, and their future, in the cultivation of their farms; the horses, cows, sheep, and swine are theirs; the crops are also theirs; and the hares and rabbits, and game of every kind living upon their farms, should also be theirs. Till this is the settled law and the practice of this country, the tenant farmers will never hold the position to which they have a just claim, and the evils of Game Laws and game preservation will never be wholly removed.

At present, it is impossible for your friends in Parliament to do anything for you. You can do much—I think you can do everything—for yourselves. Let it be a rule that no tenant farmer will support a candidate who is not in favour of full justice to tenant farmers, and the whole character of county representatives will be changed.

I would advise your committee to correspond with farmers in every county in the kingdom, and to exhort them everywhere seriously to consider this great question, and to prepare to act when another general election shall take place. Your deliverance from the insulting grievance of which you complain rests mainly with yourselves.

I am,

Very respectfully yours,

JOHN BRIGHT.

Mr. A. Robotham, The Oak Farm,
Drayton Basset, near Tamworth.

The local branch of the National Reform League, held a meeting in the Town Hall, on November 23, Mr. J. A. Partridge in the chair. The objects of the League were to promote Registered Residential Manhood Suffrage and Vote by Ballot. Mr. Edmund Beales and Mr. Mason Jones attended as a deputation and addressed the meeting. The following resolutions were passed:—

That this meeting adopts as a principle the right of manhood suffrage; as a protection the ballot; and as a policy the duty of accepting such instalments as may be attainable.

That having regard to the time-honoured name of Russell, and the great services and high reputation of Mr. Gladstone, this meeting expresses its confident hope that a large instalment of political rights

will now be conceded to the working manhood of this country, and that the principle of manhood suffrage will be recognised as the basis of our representation.

A meeting was held in the Town Hall, on December 13, under the presidency of the Mayor. Mr. Bright was present, and delivered one of his great speeches on Parliamentary Reform. Mr. Scholefield was unfortunately unable to attend through illness. Mr. Bright's speech was preceded by the adoption of the following resolution, moved by Mr. Alderman T. Lloyd, and seconded by Mr. W. Radford:—

That in the opinion of this meeting the state of the country is peculiarly favourable for immediate legislation on the subject of Parliamentary Reform. That the repeatedly expressed opinions and the recorded pledges of many of the more prominent members of the present Government, render it especially incumbent upon the existing Ministry to prepare at once a comprehensive measure of Reform, calculated to satisfy the just expectations of all sections of the Liberal party.

At the conclusion of Mr. Bright's speech, Mr. G. Dixon moved and Mr. J. S. Wright seconded the following resolution, which was passed unanimously:—

That the Mayor be requested to convey to Mr. Scholefield the expression of the deep regret of this meeting that illness should have prevented his attendance; and that the thanks of the meeting be given to Messrs. Scholefield and Bright for their earnest and consistent advocacy of the course of Parliamentary Reform.

On the 25th was published the return of householders, prepared by the direction of the Government, in contemplation of a new Reform Bill. The following is the return relating to the parish of Birmingham:—

Under £4 rentals	974
£4 and under £5 „	2,114
£5 „ „ £6 „	5,943
£6 „ „ £7 „	8,478
£7 „ „ £8 „	5,150
£8 „ „ £9 „	4,801
£9 „ „ £10 „	565
£10 and upwards	13,204
	41,229

For the borough of Birmingham the qualified electors were estimated at 15,497, about 500 being duplicates.

On March 12, 1866, Mr. Gladstone introduced the Government Reform Bill to the House of Commons. It proposed to create an occupation franchise in counties, including houses begining at £14 rental and reaching up to £50; "to introduce into counties the provision which copyholders and leaseholders, within parliamentary boroughs, now possess for the purpose of county votes;" and a savings-bank franchise. In towns it was proposed to place compound householders on the same footing as ratepayers; to abolish the tax and rate-paying clauses, to establish a £10 clear annual value, and to bring in the gross estimate rental from the rate-book as the measure of the value, thus, *pro tanto*, making the rate-book the register; a lodger franchise of £10 "clear annual value of apartments without reference to furniture." It also proposed to disqualify from voting, persons employed in the Government yards. A Reform agitation at once commenced, in which Birmingham, in accordance with her traditions and practice, took the lead.

On March 26 a town's meeting was held in the Town Hall, under the presidency of the Mayor, for the purpose of considering the Government bill. The meeting passed a resolution in favour of the measure, and a petition was adopted, which was afterwards signed by 44,236 persons, and presented to the House of Commons.

The members for the borough were not present at this meeting, but they sent the following letters on the Government Bill, which were read:—

Rochdale, March 25, 1866.

My dear Mr. Lloyd,

I feel sorry that I cannot be at your meeting to-morrow night to witness and to help the expression of the sentiments of Birmingham upon the question which is now exciting so much interest throughout the country. I cannot write as I could speak; but I must write a few lines to you.

The Franchise Bill now before Parliament is a perfectly honest bill. It will, if it become law, give votes more extensively to the middle class,

both in counties and boroughs, and it will overthrow the principle of *working class exclusion*, which was established by the Reform Act of 1832.

It will admit to the franchise so many of the working men, in all important and populous boroughs, that they, as a class, will no longer feel themselves intentionally excluded and insulted by the law.

In the counties it will enfranchise 200,000 men, and it may be expected in some counties to make the representation less that of the class of landlords, and more that of the great body of the occupiers of houses and land within the county.—(Hear, hear).

It will enfranchise in London and in all the great cities a considerable number of young men and of artisans who live in lodgings or parts of houses, and it will thus extend the franchise to many not included in the suffrage granted by the Reform Act.

I say the bill is an honest bill, and if it is the least the Government could offer, it may be that it is the greatest which the Government could carry through Parliament.

Parliament is never hearty for Reform, or for any good measure. It hated the Reform Bills of 1831 and 1832. It hated the bill which repealed the Corn Law in 1846. It does not like the Franchise Bill now upon its table. It is, to a large extent, the offspring of landlord power in the counties, and of tumult and corruption in the boroughs, and it would be strange if such a Parliament were in favour of freedom, and of an honest representation of the people. But notwithstanding such a Parliament, this bill will pass if Birmingham and other towns will do their duty.

There is opposed to it the Tory party, of whose blindness and folly we have abundant proofs in all its history.—(Hear). We have no reason now to expect from it a wiser course ; and we have a small section of men who do not accept the name of Tory, but zealously do its work.—(Hear, hear). These combine to form a conspiracy on which all the hopes of Mr. Disraeli and the opposition are based. I think a more dirty conspiracy has not been seen in the House of Commons during many generations.—(Cheers). It is directed against this Bill, and not less against Lord Russell, by whom the Liberal and popular policy of the Government has been determined.

What should be done, and what must be done under these circumstances? You know what your fathers did thirty-four years ago, and you know the result. The men, who in every speech they utter, insult the working men, describing them as a multitude given up to ignorance and vice, will be the first to yeild when the popular will is loudly and resolutely expressed. If Parliament Street, from Charing Cross to the venerable Abbey, were filled with men seeking a Reform Bill, as it was, two years ago, with men come to do honour to an illustrious Italian, these slanderers of their countrymen would learn to be civil if they did not learn to love freedom.—(Applause).

This Bill appeals to the middle and working classes alike. It is a measure of enfranchisement to both, and they should heartily unite in an effort to make it a law. That which the Tories and the "dirty conspiracy" oppose, cannot but deserve the support of every Liberal man in the kingdom. If the population of the Birmingham district would set apart a day, not for "humiliation," but for a firm assertion of them, in great meetings, or in one vast gathering, they might sustain this Franchise Bill, and beat down, as by one blow, the power that threatens to bolt the door of Parliament against the people.—(Loud cheers).

I hope we shall see in all the towns of Great Britain during the coming fortnight a great support of the Government and the Bill. If the vote of want of confidence is carried against the Government, there will be a change of Ministers or a dissolution of Parliament. If the towns do their duty, the Government will be safe, because the bill will be safe, and the suffrage once established on a more rational basis, the country can then turn its attention to the arrangement and distribution of seats, which is just as needful as a wider suffrage to give us a fair representation of the nation.

Great meetings and great petitions will be not only useful, but effectual.

I am, very truly yours,
JOHN BRIGHT.

Thomas Lloyd, Esq., Birmingham.

Mr. Scholefield's letter was addressed to Mr. Dixon, and was as follows :—

My dear Sir,

I am very glad you are going to hold a town's meeting in reference to the Government Reform Bill, made especially since the notice of amendment given by Lord Grosvenor. The Bill undoubtedly falls short of the hopes I had entertained—and which were, I think, generally entertained by Reformers—as to the extent to which the Franchise would be reduced. I own, too, that I am disappointed that the Government did not make their measure more complete by combining with a liberal reduction of the franchise, the no less important change of a distribution of seats. But those, who like myself, have confidence in the present Ministry, are bound, I think, to avoid laying too much stress on those considerations. For reasons which they have deemed conclusive, Ministers have introduced a Franchise Bill alone, with the promise of a Redistribution of Seats Bill to be brought on this session for adoption in the next, and no hearty Liberal can, I think, refuse them his support. The Franchise Bill as it stands, whatever may be its defects, evinces an honest desire on the part of the Government to effect a substantial Reform ; and I,

for one, am prepared to give them my hearty co-operation. It is for the country to declare its determination, and I sincerely hope that that determination will be frankly expressed in favour of the Bill. I have no fear as to what will be the decision of the Reformers of Birmingham.

I am, my dear sir,
Yours very truly,
WILLIAM SCHOLEFIELD.

George Dixon, Esq., Birmingham.

On June 18th the Government were defeated on Lord Dunkellin's amendment on the rental qualification of the Reform Bill by a majority of 11; and the house was adjourned for a week to enable the Ministers to communicate with the Queen, who was then at Balmoral. Steps were immediately taken by the Liberal Association to hold a Town's Meeting, and the Mayor called one in the Town Hall for the 23rd. Resolutions were passed expressing confidence in the Ministry, and declaring the necessity for a large, honest, and more comprehensive measure of reform. A petition was also adopted, praying the Queen to dissolve Parliament and appeal to the nation. The Members for the borough were not invited to this meeting. An open-air Reform Meeting of working men was held at the back of the Town Hall on July 4th. Mr. Councillor Baldwin was in the chair, and the numbers present were variously estimated at from 6,000 to 10,000. Another open-air Reform Meeting was held on the 9th, on Gosta Green, Mr. W. Wright in the chair, from 5,000 to 8,000 persons were present. Another open-air meeting was held on the 25th, at which resolutions were passed condemning the conduct of the Government in reference to the meetings in Hyde Park. About 6,000 persons were present. Meetings were held nearly every week, and deputations from the League attended others in nearly all the towns in the district. On August 27th a great Reform Demonstration was held on the Brookfields, attended by about 150,000 persons. At night a soirée was given in the Town Hall. After tea, Messrs. Scholefield and Bright addressed the meeting. On October 8th a meeting

was held to promote the formation of a Working Men's Conservative Association. Colonel Mason was in the chair, and resolutions approving the object and appointing a committee were passed. On the 10th a general meeting of the Reform League was held, at which a report of their proceedings was presented; Mr. Radford occupying the chair. On the 22nd the first meeting of a Reform Conference was held in the Rev. Arthur O'Neill's Chapel, Newhall Street; Mr. Radford in the chair. Delegates attended from the several auxiliaries connected with the Birmingham Branch of the National Reform League.

Since the great agitation which preceded the passing of the Reform Bill of 1832, there had not been more political excitement in the town than during the year 1867. It opened with Town Hall meetings, followed by Brookfield demonstrations, the passing of the Reform Bill, a contested election, and the formation of a Constitutional Association. On February 11, Mr. Disraeli introduced the Government scheme of Reform to the House of Commons, announcing that it was his intention to proceed by way of resolutions, and which, thirteen in number, he submitted to the House. On the 12th, the committee of the Birmingham Liberal Association unanimously resolved:—

> That this meeting, having heard the Ministerial resolutions, considers that they are formed with the intention of delaying the settlement of the question of Reform, and of opposing the just demands of the people; and that the Ministers proposing such resolutions are unworthy of the confidence of the country; that, therefore, the officers of this association are instructed to confer with the members for the borough as to the action which ought to be taken by the Liberal party in the present condition of affairs.

On the same evening, a crowded public meeting was held in the Town Hall, under the auspices of the Reform League, at which Lord Teynham presided, and speeches were delivered by Mr. Alderman Hawkes, Professor Rogers, Mr. Ernest Jones, Mr. J. Baldwin, the Rev. Arthur O'Neill, and Mr. Radford. The following resolutions were passed:—

That this meeting, having considered the statements of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Government resolutions, is of opinion that the propositions of her Majesty's Government are an insult to the country, and a deception attempted on the people ; that the Government have neither the honesty nor the will to pass any satisfactory measure of Parliamentary Reform ; and that our representatives be respectfully requested to invite the House of Commons forthwith to declare its want of confidence in her Majesty's Ministers.

That this meeting is of opinion that the only satisfactory basis of a just representation, is registered residential manhood suffrage, protected by the ballot.

These resolutions were forwarded to the members of the borough, who returned the following replies :—

Reform Club, London,
February 15, 1867.

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for the copy of resolutions. They prove that the right spirit prevails, and I hope that the whole country will respond with one voice.

Yours truly,
WILLIAM SCHOLEFIELD.

Mr. Roger Bateson.

Rochdale, February 18, 1867.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your note, and for the copy of the resolutions passed at the great meeting, held on Tuesday last. I believe that all you say about the Government and resolutions offered to the House is quite true, and I hope that no attempt at legislation will be founded upon the resolutions. The Reform question cannot be dealt with in a manner satisfactory to the people by the avowed enemies of Reform, and it will be better for us to wait till we have a Government honestly favourable to Reform, before anything further is sought to be done in the House of Commons. I hope all classes of Reformers in the country will continue to bring about such an expression of opinion as to induce the Legislature to deal honestly and generously with the question of the representation. In Birmingham, I believe, the 'middle class' is ready to work heartily with the 'working class,' and I hope a thorough union may take place with you, and in all parts of the kingdom.

I am, very respectfully yours,
JOHN BRIGHT.

Mr. Roger Bateson,
12, Ann Street, Birmingham.

The Liberal Association held a meeting on March 19, at which it was unanimously resolved :—

That this meeting, having considered the provisions of the Government Reform Bill, accepts with great satisfaction the recognition of household suffrage as the basis for the franchise in boroughs ; but is of opinion—

1st.—That the condition which limits the right of voting in boroughs to those who pay the local rates directly, would neutralize the advantages which would otherwise result from the proposition.

2nd.—That the introduction of dual voting is an unwise innovation on the constitutional usages of the country ; and being calculated to make invidious distinction between different classes of society, would create permanent ill-feeling in the nation.

3rd.—That by naming a higher qualification in the counties than was adopted by the House of Commons last session, the Government have shown an inclination to oppose the just demands of the people.

4th.—That the re-distribution of seats proposed by the bill is totally inadequate to rectify the existing anomalies in the law, or to assimilate in any important degree, the representation to the population, intelligence, or wealth of the nation.

On March 22nd, a Town's Meeting was held in the same place, to take into consideration the Government Reform Bill. The Mayor (Mr. Dixon), was in the chair, and Mr. T. Lloyd, Mr. R. W. Dale, and the Rev. Archdeacon Sandford were the principal speakers. At this meeting resolutions embracing the principles and opinions contained in those adopted by the Liberal Association were passed.

A great Reform demonstration, at which from 200,000 to 250,000 persons were present, took place at Brookfields on April 22. Six places of rendezvous were appointed, at the following parts of the town : Vauxhall, Gosta Green, the Old Square, St. Paul's Square, back of the Town Hall, and Smithfield—whence the people marched in procession, to the place of meeting. Mr. Bright was not able to join in the procession, but Mr. Scholefield was there, with the Mayor, the Ex-Mayor, Mr. Edmund Beales and the officers of the Birmingham Branch of the Reform League; representatives of the Birmingham Liberal Association; and members of the Town Council. At Brookfields there were eight platforms, of which the chairmen and speakers were as follows :—

1st.—Chairman, Mr. J. Baldwin; speakers, Messrs. E. Beales, Bolland, Cremer, J. Follows (of Stafford), A. Albright, Rev. J. M. Murphy, W. Rogers, and J. Gasey (London).

2nd.—Chairman, Rev. A. O'Neill; speakers, Messrs. J. A. Partridge, Lucraft, T. Wright, Taunton (Coventry), Fillimore (West Bromwich), Bedd, Christie, and W. Radford.

3rd.—Chairman, Alderman Sturge; speakers, Rev. F. Calloway, Messrs. W. Morgan, Pank, Buttress, Bill, Mantle, Grew, Stanley (London), and Darnell (Bilston).

4th.—Chairman, Mr. Rutherford; speakers, Rev. G. W. Murphy, Messrs. J. Mills, Raffles, Butcher (Banbury), Guedella, and Radford.

5th.—Chairman, Mr. J. S. Wright; speakers, Revs. J. Lord and R. W. Dale, Councillor W. Harris, Aldermen H. Hawkes and Sadler, Messrs. Thomas, G. Basnett, S. Basnett, and R. Bateson.

6th.—Chairman, Mr. W. Wright; speakers, Revs. J. C. Leonard, and S. Pearson, Messrs. G. Patten, Davies (London), W. Jones, G. Griffiths, Dalzell, and T. Wright.

7th.—Chairman, Mr. Lawnford; speakers, Revs. J. Spencer (Warwick) and J. Griffiths (Derby), Messrs. G. Mantle, Middlemore (London), and Hewens.

8th.—Chairman, Mr. J. Oxford; speakers, Rev. W. W. Jubb, Messrs. Mottershead, Linney (Bilston), G. Howell, Holden, Ogden, and Homer.

The following resolutions were passed at all the platforms:

1.—That this meeting reviewing the progress of events, is more than ever convinced that the only true and permanent basis for just and true representation of the people is registered residential manhood suffrage, protected by the ballot.

2.—That this meeting believes that the so-called Reform Bill of the present Government but intensifies and increases the evils of class legislation; that its checks and restrictions are an injustice and an insult to the people; and this meeting therefore protests against the bill becoming law unless those checks and restrictions are removed.

3.—That while this meeting desires to maintain peace, law, and order in this country, it believes that the continual obstructions to Reform, and the base treachery of the House of Commons in reference to that great constitutional question, will tend to exasperate a loyal and industrial people; and if persevered in, may ultimately lead to anarchy and revolution. This meeting further resolves that this and the foregoing resolution be forwarded to her Majesty's Government.

4.—That this meeting, whilst regretting the reported resignation by Mr. Gladstone of the leadership of the Reform party, still more deeply deplores the defection at the last moment of so large a portion of the Liberal members that in his opinion rendered necessary the course he has adopted; and this meeting hereby calls upon every Liberal member

of the House to give Mr. Gladstone such an assurance of future support as will enable him to resume the position he has so ably and faithfully held, and which it is most important he should keep, in order to secure, without protracted agitation, a satisfactory measure of Reform.

In the evening a tea party, followed by a meeting, was held in the Town Hall, at which Messrs. Scholefield and Bright delivered speeches, and Reform resolutions were unanimously adopted. This meeting is especially memorable as the one at which our deeply-respected townsman and senior representative spoke to his constituents for the last time.

On the morning of the 23rd a Reform Conference was held at the Royal Hotel, in which nearly all the Liberals present at the preceding meetings took part.

At a special meeting of the Town Council, held on the 23rd, a resolution moved by Mr. Alderman Hawkes was adopted, stating that Birmingham was insufficiently represented, and ought to have at least one more member.

A special meeting of the Town Council was called for May 3rd, to consider the Bill then before the House of Commons, "To amend the Laws relating to the Representation of the People," and to adopt such petitions, resolutions, and other proceedings in reference thereto as the Council might deem advisable. The feeling that the Council ought to take no part in a purely political question was so strong, that there was not a quorum present, and no business was therefore transacted. Several members stood outside the Council Chamber and refused to enter, to make up a quorum.

Our highly-respected senior member, Mr. W. Scholefield, died on July 9; the Liberal Association and the Reform League united in supporting the candidature of Mr. George Dixon; and the Working Men's Liberal Conservative Association, invited Mr. Sampson S. Lloyd to allow himself to be put in nomination. He accepted the requisition, and a contest ensued, which, for political excitement, has certainly not been surpassed in the political history of the town. Mr. Bright, as was only natural, gave his powerful aid in support of Mr. Dixon; and the following letter from his pen was published:—

Rochdale, July 13, 1867.

Dear Mr. Ryland,

The sudden removal of our dear friend, Mr. Scholefield, has been to me a great trouble, although it was not unexpected. For some weeks past his health has been failing, and his life most uncertain; and on Tuesday night last, in conversation with a friend from Birmingham, who was here, I said that I should not be surprised any morning to hear that he was gone. On the following morning the announcement of the sad event met us as we sat down to breakfast.

Birmingham has lost a most faithful representative; I have lost a colleague and friend, whose courtesy, kindness, and helpfulness I shall never forget. It is not for me to say anything as to the choice of his successor, my future colleague. I can only hope that he may hold the same principles, and be willing to work in the same cause, and that my hands may be strengthened, as they have hitherto been, by that unity of opinion and of action which should exist in the representation of your great community.

If the voice which is now silent for ever could once more speak to the electors of Birmingham, it would urge them to put aside all local and accidental questions, and to make their choice in faithful adhesion to the great principle by which they have hitherto been distinguished; to do otherwise would be to condemn the opinions of your lamented representative, and would, as far as parliamentary action is concerned, virtually disfranchise the borough.

I unite with you and your townsmen in the sorrow which must be general amongst you, and am,

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN BRIGHT.

Arthur Ryland, Esq.
Birmingham.

Meetings were held in every ward in support of both candidates; and on July 18, the supporters of Mr. Dixon held one in the Town Hall, at which Mr. Bright was present, and delivered a most eloquent speech in favour of Reform and of the Liberal Candidate. The following resolution, moved by Mr. Councillor Baldwin, and seconded by Mr. George Dawson, was passed unanimously:—

That this meeting heartily approves of the nomination of Mr. George Dixon, the Liberal Candidate, for the representation of Birmingham, and pledges itself to secure his return, and to preserve the town from the discredit of misrepresentation by a Tory.

The vote of thanks to the chairman (Mr. Alderman H. Wiggin) was moved by Mr. Bright and seconded by Mr. R. W. Dale.

On the 19th, Mr. Lloyd held a meeting in the Town Hall, but failed to obtain a hearing; the noise was so great that even the reporters had some difficulty in hearing his speech.

The nomination took place at the Town Hall on July 22, when Mr. Dixon was nominated by Mr. Alderman Wiggin and Mr. J. S. Wright; and Mr. Lloyd by Mr. J. D. Goodman and Mr. John Graham. The show of hands was in favour of Mr. Dixon, by a very large majority, and a poll was demanded for Mr. Lloyd. The polling took place on the 23rd, and the official declaration was made on the same evening, with the following result: for Mr. Dixon, 5,819, for Mr. Lloyd, 4,214; giving the successful candidate a majority of 1,605. The joint expenses of this election reached the enormous sum of £8,668 18s. 0d.; Mr. Dixon's being £3,659 11s. 10d., and Mr. Lloyd's £5,009 6s. 2d.

The Royal assent was given to the Reform Bill on August 15. By this Act Birmingham obtained the right of sending a third member to the House of Commons.

The election was followed by the formation of a new political society—the Constitutional—of which Mr. Sebastian Evans, was elected honorary secretary. The remainder of the political year was devoted to forwarding the work of organization. Lectures were delivered, meetings held, and innumerable speeches made. The Working Men's Liberal-Conservative Association formed a number of branch societies, and they took an active part in supporting Lord Cairn's amendment, restricting the number of candidates to be voted for where there are more than two to be elected.

The Reform League arranged for a series of lectures to be delivered in the Town Hall, of which three were given during the year:—on November 19th, "The Politics of the Future," by Mr. R. W. Dale; on the 26th, on "Capital and Labour," by Mr. Ernest Jones; and on December 10th, Mr. C. Vince delivered one on "The Irish Church."

The Liberal-Conservatives also had their lectures:—on November 21st, Mr. Sebastian Evans delivered one on "The Ratepaying Clauses;" and on the 21st of December, the same gentleman delivered a second lecture on the same important subject. One political event of the year must not be omitted. On September 7th, Mr. P. H. Muntz published an address to the electors, offering himself as a candidate for the third seat given to Birmingham by the new Reform Bill. This he did "in accordance with the wishes of many friends, and a promise long since given."

A meeting of the Liberal Association was held on October 4, Mr. Alderman Hawkes in the chair, to discuss the best plan of organizing the party, so as to ensure the return of three Liberals at the next election. The following rules, were, after some discussion, unanimously adopted:—

OBJECTS.

1st.—To maintain the Liberal representation of the borough.

2nd.—To assist in obtaining the return of Liberal members for the county.

3rd.—To promote the adoption of Liberal principles in the Government of the country.

CONSTITUTION AND LAWS.

1st.—That all Liberals who subscribe one shilling and upwards per annum, shall be members of the Association.

2nd.—That an annual general meeting, for the election of officers and the transaction of general business, shall be held at such period as shall be fixed by the Executive Committee, and that a special general meeting shall be convened by the vote of the Executive Committee, and, when required, by a notice signed by not less than twenty members of the Association. Such annual and special meetings may be called by advertisement or circular.

3rd.—That no alteration shall be made in these laws except at an annual and special general meeting, and that notice of any alteration shall be given at least seven clear days before such meeting, and the notice shall be inserted in the advertisement or circular calling such meeting.

4th.—That the officers of the Association shall be a president, vice-president, treasurer, and honorary secretary, to be elected at the annual meeting.

5th.—That the Executive Committee shall consist—1st, of the honorary officers of the Association; 2nd, of twenty members elected by the annual general meeting; 3rd, of twenty members elected annually

by the Committee of the Midland Branch of the National Reform League, when such branch shall be constituted ; 4th, of three members elected by and from each ward committee of the Liberal party, with power to the Executive to add four to its own members ; five to be a quorum.

6th.—That the General Committee shall consist of the Executive Committee, and not more than twenty-four members elected annually by and from each of the ward committees ; twenty to be a quorum.

7th.—That the general business of the Association shall be conducted by the Executive Committee ; but any subject may be transferred from its decision to that of the General Committee, on a vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present at any properly constituted meeting of the Executive Committee ; and that the choice of Parliamentary Candidates shall be made only by the General Committee.

8.—That a meeting of the General Committee shall be called to consider any special subject, on the vote of any two Ward Committees.

On October 2, Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Ward (R.E.) and Mr. John Wharton (Barrister-at-Law), two of the assistant Commissioners appointed by the Boundary Commissioners of England and Wales, under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1867, attended at the Council Chamber, Moor Street, for the purpose of enquiring into the boundaries of the borough, with the view to ascertain whether the boundaries of Birmingham should be enlarged, so as to include within the limits of the said borough all premises which ought—due regard being had to situation and other local circumstances—to be included therein, for the purpose of conferring upon the occupiers thereof the Parliamentary franchise for such borough. It is a curious fact that the extension of the borough for Parliamentary purposes was opposed by the Liberals and supported by the Conservatives. In the end Birmingham and Warwick were excluded from the operations of the Boundary Bill.

On December 9, the annual meeting of the Working Men's Liberal Conservative Association was held at the Royal Hotel, under the presidency of Mr. S. S. Lloyd. The report stated that the number of members on the books was 2,000 ; and the statement of accounts showed receipts to the amount of £119 7s., made up of £89 7s. subscriptions from ordinary and

honorary members, and £30 from donations. The expenditure had been £109 18s., leaving a balance of £9 9s. in favour of the Association. Mr. Lloyd was elected President for the ensuing year; a large number of Vice-Presidents were also appointed at this meeting.

At a meeting of Liberals held in Duddeston Ward, on December 17, Mr. Councillor William Harris, honorary secretary to the Liberal Association, explained the course which that party intended to adopt with regard to the next election for the borough. A branch committee, consisting of twenty-four members, was to be formed in each ward, these committees, together with the central committee, would form a committee of about four hundred members. Before the election came on, three Liberal candidates were to be selected by the central committee. The ward committees to undertake the preparation and management of the contest in their respective wards. "In this way," Mr. Harris said, "unity would be preserved, and the danger of a Tory being elected in consequence of differences among the Liberals would be averted." The scheme was approved by all the wards.

The political activity and excitement of 1867, were increased in 1868. The fact that there was to be a contest for the third seat given to the Town by the Reform Bill of 1867, and an earnest attempt made to return at least one Conservative candidate, awakened all the political energy of both parties. It would be useless to record all the meetings which were held, as in the last few weeks preceding the polling day one, two, and sometimes three were held nightly. It has been calculated that at least some 300 meetings were held by the friends of the various candidates; and both parties were sanguine of success. The proposed disestablishment of the Irish Church added fuel to the fire, and some of the gatherings were more remarkable for noise and violence than for any other quality. The key note of the coming battle was sounded very early in the year. At a meeting of the Birmingham Constitutional Association, held in the Vestry Hall, Edgbaston, on January 20, Mr. J. D. Goodman in the chair, the following resolution was passed:—

That this meeting pledges itself to use its best endeavours to secure for Birmingham, at the next election, one or more representatives holding Constitutional principles.

On February 4, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, Mr. J. Jaffray in the chair, at which Mr. J. Bright, M.P. and Mr. George Dixon, M.P., addressed their constituents. Mr. Bright's speech was principally devoted to the Irish question. On the 5th a deputation of artizans waited upon both members, on the subject of technical education; and on the 6th a deputation of licensed victuallers, in reference to Mr. Abel Smith's bill on Sunday Liquor Traffic. On the 6th a public dinner in connection with the All Saints' Ward Branch of the Birmingham Constitutional Association was held at the Trees Inn, Hockley.

On the 4th of March, Mr. Sebastian Evans, M.A., delivered a lecture in the Town Hall, under the auspices of the Birmingham Working Men's Liberal-Conservative Association, on "Politics and Protestantism." Mr. Alderman Brinsley presided.

A meeting of the Birmingham Trades' Council was held on the 5th, to receive the report of the committee appointed to consider the proposal to secure the return of a working man to Parliament. It was stated that the proposal had been favourably received. It was estimated that the expense would be about £500, viz., £300 a year to the representative, and £200 for election and incidental expenses, and this it was proposed to raise by 10,000 members contributing 1s. each annually. The report was unanimously adopted, but some discussion took place respecting the proposal to form a Working Man's Representative Committee, and to proceed at once to raise subscriptions to carry out the proposal. Opinion was divided as to the feasibility of the scheme, and ultimately the debate was adjourned till the next meeting of the Trades' Council.

On the 11th a meeting, convened by the Mayor (Mr. T. Avery) in accordance with a requisition of the members of the Reform League, was held in the Town Hall for the

purpose of considering the ratepaying clause of the Reform Bill. Mr. J. S. Wright proposed and Mr. Raffles seconded the resolution "That in the opinion of this meeting the ratepaying clause of the Reform Bill has produced great hardship and misery, and ought at once to be repealed." The resolution was carried with only a few dissentients, and a petition to the House of Commons praying for its repeal was adopted.

On the 19th, Mr. J. A. Partridge delivered a lecture in reply to that of Mr. Evans on "Politics and Protestantism." Mr. Alderman Hawkes presided. Both lectures have been published.

On April 13th, a tea party, in connection with the Birmingham Working Men's Liberal-Conservative Association, was held in the Town Hall. After tea there was a public meeting. Mr. S. S. Lloyd was in the chair, and the Hon. and Rev. Grantham M. Yorke, Mr. C. N. Newdegate, M.P., the Rev. C. Marson, Dr. J. H. Burges, and Mr. Sebastian Evans took part in the proceedings, and resolutions were passed in accordance with the objects of the meeting.

On the 16th a crowded meeting was held in the same place, and a protest offered against the proposed disestablishment of the Irish Church. Mr. S. S. Lloyd was in the chair, and the Hon. and Rev. Grantham M. Yorke, Mr. C. N. Newdegate, M.P., the Rev. C. Marson, Dr. J. H. Burges, and Mr. Sebastian Evans took part in the proceedings, and resolutions were passed in opposition to Mr. Gladstone's Bill. The leading Liberals of the town signed and presented a requisition to the Mayor, wishing him to call a town's meeting on the subject. This was complied with, and the meeting was held in the Town Hall on April 22nd, when a most disgraceful scene of violence occurred. For some time the proceedings were completely interrupted by "free fights" on the floor. At length a little quiet was obtained, and Mr. J. Jaffray and Mr. George Dawson both obtained a fair hearing on moving and seconding a resolution in support of Mr. Gladstone's proposal. The rising of Mr. S. S. Lloyd to

propose an amendment, was the signal for a renewal of the uproar; and neither he nor Mr. Sebastian Evans, who rose to second the amendment, were allowed a hearing. The resolution was carried; and after a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding, this disgraceful meeting separated.

On the 18th of May, a public meeting was held in the Exchange Room, in favour of Women's Suffrage. The Ven. Archdeacon Sandford presided, and on the motion of Miss Robertson and Miss Burke, the following resolutions were passed:—

That the exclusion of Women from the exercise of the suffrage in the election of members of Parliament being unjust in principle and inexpedient in practice, this meeting is of opinion that the right of voting should be granted to them on the same conditions as those which are or may be granted to men.

That this meeting expresses its cordial approval of the objects of the National Association for Woman Suffrage, and of the course hitherto pursued; and pledges itself to support its future acts by all practical and constitutional efforts.

At a meeting of the Town Council, held June 16, the following resolutions were passed:—

That for the purposes of "The Representation of the People Act, 1867," the Council doth hereby order that the borough be divided into thirteen polling districts, identical with the respective wards into which it is now divided for Municipal purposes, and that the Overseers of the Poor of the several parishes and part of a parish within the borough be respectfully requested, so far as practicable, to make out the list of voters in such a manner as to divide the names in conformity with each polling district. And that a deputation of the Mayor, Alderman Hawkes, and Alderman Sadler, do forthwith wait upon the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on the subject of the preparation of the register of borough voters, with the view of obtaining such alteration in his Registration Bill as will cause the register to correspond with the rate books.

On the 7th of July, a meeting of the representatives of the Ward Committees of the Liberal Association, was held in the Town Hall, to select the third Liberal Candidate for the Representation of the Borough. Mr. Alderman Hawkes presided, and there were upwards of 3,000 persons present.

It was resolved that Mr. Bright, M.P., and Mr. G. Dixon, M.P., be invited to stand at the next election. The selection of a third candidate was then proceeded with, the following being nominated:—Mr. P. H. Muntz, Mr. J. S. Wright, Mr. R. W. Dale, Mr. W. Radford, Mr. James Baldwin, Mr. W. E. Gladstone, Mr. E. Beales, and Mr. George Dawson. Mr. J. S. Wright withdrew from the contest, but recommended his friends to vote for Mr. Radford. The names of Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Baldwin, and Mr. G. Dawson, having been withdrawn, the votes were taken by ballot, when there appeared:—For Mr. Muntz, 284; Mr. Radford, 24; Mr. Beales, 3.

On the 20th, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, for the purpose of presenting a requisition to Mr. Sampson S. Lloyd, inviting him to become a candidate at the next election. Mr. J. D. Goodman presided, and the requisition was presented by Mr. John Lowe, who stated that there were upwards of 8,000 signatures to the requisition, and more than 3,000 persons who had not signed the requisition had promised to vote for Mr. Lloyd. Mr. Lloyd, in expressing his intention of complying with the requisition, entered at some length into an explanation of his views regarding the principal political questions of the day. Mr. Hopkins moved "That this meeting having heard Mr. Sampson S. Lloyd and being gratified with his acceptance of the requisition, pledges itself to use every endeavour to secure his return at the next election." Mr. Livesey seconded the motion, which was carried with only two dissentients. On the 25th the Mayor entertained the borough members and about 160 gentlemen at dinner at Nock's Hotel. Mr. Bright was present, and made a "non-political" speech.

On August 21st Dr. Sebastian Evans was selected as the second Liberal-Conservative candidate, and the colleague of Mr. S. S. Lloyd in contesting the representation of the borough.

The following are the addresses to the Electors of each of the five Candidates:—

Rochdale, August 22nd, 1868.

Gentlemen,

I have reason to believe that it is your wish that I should become a Candidate for the honourable office of one of your Representatives in the Parliament about to be elected; I therefore offer myself as a Candidate, and ask for a renewal of the confidence you have so long reposed in me.

After twenty-five years of Parliamentary life, and after ten years spent in your service, I shall not enter into an elaborate statement of my opinions on public questions. I have been permitted to explain them so fully in your Town Hall on so many occasions, that my views can scarcely be misunderstood by any amongst you.

The cause of Parliamentary Reform has made great progress since the last General Election; but a good deal remains to be done. The small Boroughs are still to be got rid of, and the large populations will still demand their fair share of political power.

The extension of the Franchise has been granted under circumstances which have acted with great and needless hardship upon the small Householders. I did all I could to prevent this in the Session of 1867, and I shall be glad to assist in applying a remedy, if I have a Seat in the New Parliament.

I regard the question of the Ballot as of first importance. Whether I look to the excessive cost of elections, or to the tumult which so often attends them, or to the unjust and cruel pressure which is so frequently brought to bear upon the less independent class of Voters, I am persuaded that the true interest of the Public and of freedom will be served by the adoption of the system of secret and free voting. It is in practice, and is highly valued, in almost every other country having representative institutions, and I regard it as absolutely necessary to a real representation of the United Kingdom.

The formost question for the new Parliament will be our treatment of Ireland. You know my views on the Irish Church Establishment, and on the land question. In dealing with the Irish Establishment we are not promoting the spread of the Roman Catholic, or damaging the influence of the Protestant, Religion. We *do not touch religion at all.* We deal only with the political institution, which has wholly failed to secure any good object, and which has succeeded only in weakening the loyalty and offending the sense of justice of the great majority of the Irish people.

Our opponents speak of their zeal for Protestantism, and their loyalty to the Constitution. I prefer a Protestantism which is an alliance with Christian kindness and with justice, and my loyalty to the Constitution leads me to wish for the hearty union of the three kingdoms in allegiance to the Crown. I believe that Christianity and the Constitution will be

alike strengthened in these islands by the removal of the Irish Church Establishment.

At the coming Election, Birmingham will send three Members to Parliament; but, by a scheme, which is contrary to all previous constitutional practice, it is intended that the majority of the Electors shall only have two voices in the House about to be chosen, and that one of these shall be rendered useless by the vote of a Member not chosen by, but elected contrary to, the will of the majority. Your constituency is increased in number from 14,000 to 42,000 voters, and by this scheme it is intended that the great division which may take place in December next, Birmingham, shall, in fact, throw only one vote into the Parliamentary scale. I regard this as an outrageous violation of constitutional principles and practice, and I cannot suppose that you will support any Candidate who approves of it as applied to your Borough, or who is anxious to extend it to other constituencies of the Kingdom. The great town constituencies have carried the wise changes which have been forced upon Parliament of late years, and the 'Minority Clause' has been enacted to lessen their power, and to reduce them to the level of small Boroughs which return only one member to Parliament.

I hope at some time before the Election to have the opportunity of meeting you in your Town Hall, and of discussing this and other important questions at greater length than is possible in this address.

If you send me to the next Parliament, I shall endeavour to act as becomes a representative of one of the foremost constituencies of the empire.

I am, with the greatest respect,
Very faithfully yours,
JOHN BRIGHT.

To the Electors of Birmingham.

The Dales, Edgbaston,
August 29th, 1868.

Gentlemen,

The Liberal Election Committee have done me the honour to nominate me, by an unanimous vote, as one of the three Liberal Candidates for Birmingham at the approaching General Election. Accepting this nomination as a testimony of approval of my conduct during the short time I have represented you, and as an earnest of confidence in my future course, I venture to ask you for a renewal of the trust you placed in my hands twelve months ago. To the electors who returned me last year, I appeal with confidence, on the ground that I have earnestly striven—and I hope not without success—to redeem the pledges I then gave; and I appeal with equal confidence to the new electors, because during my political life I have consistently advocated their right to the vote which is now to be given for the first time.

I accept, without hesitation or reserve, the plan laid down by the Liberal Committee for the conduct of the election; believing that by these means, notwithstanding the insidious and mischievous device of the restricted vote, a great victory may be achieved by the return of three Liberals Members for Birmingham. The success of the Committee's plan depends upon the hearty co-operation of the new electors. I am confident that this will be given. I cannot believe that the working men of Birmingham will record their votes in favour of that party which has always opposed their admission to the franchise.

The importance of the subjects to be brought before the next Parliament renders it most desirable that Liberal views should unmistakeably preponderate in the House of Commons, and especially that the great towns—the centres of Liberal opinion and the sources of Liberal strength—should speak with no divided voice.

Foremost amongst the measures the Liberal party will be called upon to support are those which are necessary to do justice to Ireland—namely, the disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Established Church, and the modification of the laws affecting the tenure of land.

The completion of the Reform Act of last session is also an essential feature of the Liberal programme. In my opinion this measure can be rendered acceptable only by a further reduction of the county franchise; the repeal of the so-called minority clause; the adoption of the ballot; and a re-distribution of seats, advancing as far as possible in the direction of the only permanent settlement—equalised constituencies, with one representative to each.

Intimately connected with the question of Parliamentary Representation is the equalisation of local rates, involving the restoration of the system of compounding, and the consequent relief of the poor man from a burden which, in comparison with his means, is twice as heavy as that borne by the rich.

The establishment of a national and compulsory system of education, based upon local rating and local management, supplemented by State aid and Government inspection, must also engage the support of earnest Liberals in the next Parliament.

Immediate attention must also be directed to the state of the national expenditure, which has largely increased under a Conservative Government, and is likely still further to increase, unless determined means are adopted to enforce rigid economy.

Amongst other measures which may be expected to come before Parliament are reforms in the administration of the army and navy; the discontinuance of wasteful Government manufacturing establishments, to the increase of expense and the detriment of private trade; the amendment of the laws of entail and the game laws; the opening of the Universities fully and freely to Nonconformists; and the removal of disabilities now affecting Trades Unions.

On these questions, as upon all others that may arise, I shall, if re-elected, give my support to the most Liberal policy, believing that in doing so I shall best represent a Liberal and enlightened constituency.

The next election marks a crisis in the political history of Birmingham. By the Reform Act an additional representative has been conceded to us. It is for you to decide whether this concession shall result in gain or loss—whether the town shall stand before the country as an example of divided counsels and neutralised voting power, or whether, by returning three Liberal representatives, it shall continue to be worthy of its hereditary political reputation, and shall maintain with fuller voice and augmented force those great principles which have made Birmingham the home and the hope of the Liberal party.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE DIXON.

To the Electors of Birmingham.

Birmingham, 29th August, 1868.

My Fellow Townsmen,

Parliament will soon be Dissolved, and you will be called upon to Elect Three Representatives. Selected as one of the Liberal Candidates by the Delegates of the Wards, in conjunction with the Liberal Association and the Reform League, a selection unanimously confirmed at many Public Meetings, I solicit your suffrages.

Should you elect me as one of your Representatives, I should be prepared to advocate—

A just Redistribution of Seats, in some reasonable proportion to numbers.

The Abolition of the Direct Payment of Rates and of the Minority Clause.

Protection to the Voters by the Ballot, without which the extension of the Franchise in the rural districts is an act of cruelty.

An alteration of the Laws of Primogeniture and Entail, as far as concerns property.

A searching Investigation into the whole system of Taxation and Expenditure.

The Abolition of the Income Tax on uncertain or variable incomes.

A National System of Secular Education.

Legislative Protection of the Funds of Trades Unions.

I should also be prepared, when the Bank Charter Act has to be reconsidered, to endeavour to prevent its renewal in its present form.

Protestant by education and conviction, I have long considered the Irish Church as an anomaly irreconcileable with sound policy and every principle of justice. Instead of having fulfilled the purposes for which

it was intended, it has been the great obstacle to the spread of Protestantism. The active part taken by many of its ministers, as magistrates, during the "Irish Reign of Terror," has associated the idea of oppression and Protestantism to so lamentable an extent as to make any prospect of important conversion hopeless. The suggestion to meet the difficulty by Endowing the Roman Catholic Clergy—against their own wish—would have my most strenuous opposition.

I consider that Disestablishment of the Church, and religious equality, as enjoyed in our Australian Colonies and the United States of America, to be the only real solution of the Irish Church question.

I remain, yours faithfully,

P. H. Muntz.

To the Electors of Birmingham.

Birmingham, August 17th, 1868.

Fellow Townsmen,

I have received a Requisition signed by several thousand Electors, proposing that I should again offer myself as a Candidate for the honourable and responsible post of representing you in Parliament.

I accede to your request, in the hope of being instrumental in promoting your local interests, but, above all, in upholding those principles of Constitutional liberty and progress, by means of which I believe that the freedom, welfare, and advancement of England can be best maintained and promoted.

The Reform Act of 1867 has extended the franchise to many thousands among you, and I rejoice that it has done so. Its operation is impeded by conditions respecting compulsory personal rating which have caused very great hardship and inconvenience to many deserving persons in this borough.

It must, however, never be forgotten, that it is the abolition of Compounding which has been the immediate cause of all this suffering, and that this change was forced upon the country by the efforts of the Liberal party in the House of Commons. I am convinced, by our experience of this change in Birmingham, that the present system of compulsory personal rating of all Householders ought to be abolished. In default of any better remedy, I am prepared to advocate simple Residential Household Suffrage in Boroughs, as much better than the continuance of the present state of things.

The just and fair Redistribution of Seats has always appeared to me to be an important and necessary element in any wise measure for Parliamentary Reform. In this respect, I consider the Reform Act of last Session (as well as the Reform Bills previously proposed by the opponents of Her Majesty's present Government) to be defective. I shall support any well-considered measure for the reform of this defect, which appears

calculated not to give preponderance to any special political party, but to give to every class and interest in the realm fair and legitimate representation in Parliament.

The maintenance of the National Protestant Church in Ireland is among the most important questions which claim consideration in the coming Session.

The theory of unconditional Religious Equality, on which its disendowment and disestablishment are sought, I believe would prove in practice to be destructive of that perfect toleration and liberty which ought to be secured for all forms and professions of religion on the part of all our fellow-subjects. The consistent and complete adoption of that theory would involve the surrender of the great Constitutional principles that the succession to the Throne of this Realm shall be limited to a Protestant; that the Sovereign can marry none but a Protestant; and that the Sovereign shall be solemnly pledged, by a Protestant Coronation Oath, to maintain the liberties secured to us by the Reformation.

The National Protestant Church in Ireland is maintained by endowments, and not by taxes or rates levied upon the people. Its disestablishment, and the confiscation of those endowments would be distasteful to a large and influential portion of the Irish people. I fear that such measures would be followed by increased absenteeism on the part of many of the most loyal and intelligent Irishmen, and by a great increase in the political power of the hierarchy established in that country by the Court of Rome.

If elected by you, I shall therefore oppose any demand for the confiscation of those Revenues of the National Church which are necessary to its efficiency, or for the surrender of the great Protestant principles of the Constitution.

I am a zealous advocate for the thorough reform of all abuses within the National Protestant Church in Ireland and in England. I desire especially the thorough reform of the Ecclesiastical Courts. I will earnestly support measures for the abolition of sinecures, for the more just distribution of Church Property, and for rendering the National Church efficient in religious education, and a faithful witness for Protestant truth.

I believe it to be a matter of paramount necessity to place the means of sound Education within the reach of every child in the realm, with careful provision for securing the rights of conscience; and I am prepared to make Education, on those conditions, compulsory.

The right province and duty of legislation, in reference to Trades' Unions, and to the protection of the just rights of Capital and Labour, are matters of great importance at this time. I am prepared to give to these questions my most earnest attention. Being neither an artizan, nor directly or indirectly an employer of artizans, I trust that I am able

to do so impartially. I am in favour of maintaining the right of workmen (as of capitalists) to combine for any lawful purpose, and of giving legislative recognition to such combinations, and protection to their funds—with proper provisions for the compliance of their rules with the law—for the publication of those rules, and for the repression of attempts at intimidation and outrage.

I am opposed on principle to the undue extension of Government Manufacturing Establishments, and should use any influence that I might possess to secure for this town that share in the manufacture of Small Arms for the Army and Navy to which it is justly entitled.

I am an advocate for a policy of peace towards other nations, and for careful economy in our national expenditure, so far as consists with efficient administration, and with the due protection of the liberties and honour of Englishmen. If elected by you, I shall do my best to promote such economy.

I have actively advocated for years past measures for the reform of our commercial law (especially of our iniquitous system of bankruptcy) for providing increased facilities for trade and the employment of the people, and for the extension of our foreign commerce. The office of Chairman of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom (to which I have had the honour of being elected for seven successive years), has given me many facilities for acquaintance with such questions. You may rely on my most earnest endeavours at all times to promote these objects.

My whole life and interests have been identified with this borough. If chosen to represent you I shall at all times make your local interests an object of special care and attention.

If these views in the main commend themselves to your approval, I ask you to support them earnestly by your votes at the coming election; assuring you, that if elected, I shall honestly and zealously try to act in accordance with them.

I am, Fellow-townsmen,

Yours faithfully,

SAMPSON S. LLOYD.

To the Inhabitants of the Borough of
Birmingham, Electors and Non-Electors.

Birmingham, August 17th, 1868.

Fellow Townsmen,

In accordance with the general wish of the Constitutional Party I venture to ask for your votes in the forthcoming contest.

The Reform Bill has added nearly thirty thousand working men to the register in Birmingham alone, and the Nation has decided that the interests of labour shall be more directly represented in Parliament.

A change has thus been effected, which the local Liberal party seem incapable of realising.

Through the agency of a dictatorial committee, they have not only brought forward three candidates, all representing mercantile and manufacturing interests, but they are seeking by all the means in their power to fetter the independence of your votes.

For seven years engaged as practical foreman in an important branch of local art manufacture, and still, as editor of a daily paper, brought into continual contact with my fellow working men in all departments of labour, I come forward as one well acquainted with their wants and wishes, to advocate the interests which our opponents have so summarily ignored.

I am in favour of the fullest legal recognition of Trades Unions, believing that if the Law protects the Unions, the Unions will protect the Law.

I would support the abolition of the so-called "Law of Primogeniture," and a considerable modification of the laws relating to entail and the transfer of land. I believe, however, that the granting of further facilities for emigration would be found a far more efficient means of maintaining a high minimum rate of wages in this country.

Any well-considered scheme tending to produce this result, and thereby to improve the position of the artizan, would have my hearty concurrence.

The dwellings of the poor in town and country are a disgrace to our civilization. I would vote for any measure tending to improve the houses of the labouring classes, or the workshops in which they toil.

Owing in a great degree to the landlords having perverted the Rate-paying Clauses of the Reform Bill into a means of raising rents in Birmingham,—an object they have long had in view,—those who were formerly Compound Householders have been subjected to hardship and injustice which cannot be allowed to continue.

The true remedy for this evil I believe is to be found in a carefully-adjusted scheme of National Rating, not to supersede, but to supplement and lighten local taxation, accompanied by a complete revision of the present method of assessing and collecting the rates.

The poorer class of occupiers ought to be allowed to pay the rates as heretofore through the landlords, still leaving all permanently resident householders in possession of both the municipal and parliamentary suffrage.

Ever since I have been among you I have toiled steadily in the cause of popular education. Believing it to be one of the first duties of the State to secure an education to every one of its subjects, I would support any measure which would ensure the satisfactory fulfilment of this duty without offending the consciences of any.

The adoption of the ballot in any borough or district I would make permissive. I believe that in boroughs, like our own, where the tyranny of the majority is severely felt, it would tend to secure purity of election.

The principle of the representation of minorities I believe to be sound. A large extension of the system would do away with the objection that it is now applied only to a few constituences, our own among the number.

With regard to our foreign relations, our national expenditure, and our social condition, I abide by what was once the Liberal cry: "Peace, Retrenchment, and Reform."

The union of Church and State I look on as a fundamental part of our Constitution; but I believe that it can only be maintained by swift and extensive reform in the Church.

A readjustment of the revenues is urgently required, accompanied by the abolition of superfluous Ecclesiastical Courts and offices, and in Ireland by a diminution in the number of Bishoprics.

A modification of the Church formularies is also essential, and such an alteration in the system of patronage as would give congregations a larger voice in the selection of a minister.

Such a Reform would vindicate the Protestant character of the Church—make union possible with a large body of Protestant Nonconformists, and render the Church in deed as well as in name the Church of the Reformation, the Church of the Poor, the Church of England.

These opinions, which I believe are shared by many among you, I am prepared to advocate in Parliament, should you consider me worthy the high honour of being elected as your representative.

Yours faithfully,

SEBASTIAN EVANS, LL.D.

To the Men of Birmingham.

From this time to the election, meetings were held almost nightly; some of them were very disorderly; but, on the whole, each party kept their meetings pretty much to themselves, and generally unanimity and enthusiasm prevailed. On October 26, a crowded meeting was held in the Town Hall, at which Mr. Bright delivered his first election speech to his friends and supporters. On the 28th an equally crowded meeting was held in the same building, at which Mr. S. S. Lloyd and Dr. Evans addressed the electors. Another meeting was held in the Town Hall on the 30th, making three in one week at which Mr. Bright, Mr. Dixon,

and Mr. Muntz spoke. On November 10th, Messrs. Bright, Dixon, and Muntz addressed a meeting of the gun trade in the Town Hall. On the 12th the Liberal candidates attended a meeting held in the Deritend Brewery. On the 13th they addressed a large audience at the Saltley Carriage Works, and on the same night Mr. S. S. Lloyd and Dr. Evans delivered speeches to a crowded meeting at the Town Hall. On the 14th the latter gentlemen also spoke at a meeting held at the Saltley Carriage Works; Messrs. Bright, Dixon, and Muntz spoke at Holder's Concert Hall, and in the evening an aggregate meeting of Liberals was held in the Town Hall. The nomination took place on the 16th, at the back of the Town Hall. There were over 20,000 persons present. The candidates were nominated in the following order: Mr. Bright by Mr. J. S. Wright and Mr. Raffles; Mr. Dixon by Mr. Lampard and Mr. John Jaffray; Mr. Muntz by Mr. Alderman Ryland and Mr. Monk; Mr. S. S. Lloyd by Mr. J. D. Goodman and Mr. Councillor Lowe; Dr. Sebastian Evans by Mr. J. H. Hands and Mr. Bentley. The show of hands was in favour of the three first named candidates, and a poll was demanded for Mr. Lloyd and Dr. Evans. The polling took place on the 17th, and on the 18th the official declaration was made at the hustings, and the numbers were:—

Dixon	15,098
Muntz	14,614
Bright	14,601
Lloyd	8,700
Evans	7,061

The following are the addresses of thanks to the electors, issued by the successful and unsuccessful candidates:

Committee Room, November 17, 1868.

Gentlemen,

Your efforts have been crowned with success, and you have won a great and memorable victory for the Liberal cause. Notwithstanding the obstruction of the 'Minority Clause,' which was intended to impair the force of the majority of the constituency, you have returned three Liberal Representatives to the new Parliament by a great, indeed by an overwhelming, majority of votes. We wish at the very earliest opportunity to thank you for the confidence you have placed in us, and we feel

very sure that the whole Liberal Party of the kingdom will thank you. We accept the honourable trust you have committed to us, deeply grateful to you for your confidence and your good opinion of us.

We are, very faithfully yours,

JOHN BRIGHT.
GEORGE DIXON.
P. H. MUNTZ.

Birmingham, 17th November, 1868.

Gentlemen,

You have to-day elected my three political opponents to represent you, by a considerable majority. As in duty bound I cheerfully acquiesce in your decision.

The support which nearly 13,000 of you did me the honour to promise, justified my committee and myself in persevering in this contest to the close.

We have felt it a duty to those electors and to ourselves to fight it for principles which we hold dear, because we believe those principles conduce to the true liberty and progress of England; and believing this, I trust that they will yet prevail.

I beg to express my sense of obligation to the 8,700 electors who this day actually recorded their votes for me, at the cost of much inconvenience, and in some cases of no little personal obloquy.

I also beg to express my most grateful thanks to the chairmen, secretaries, and other officers in the ward and district committees, to the canvassers, and to the other generous men—especially to the numerous working men—who have cheerfully and zealously devoted so much time and labour to promote the return of my colleague and self.

I am, gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

SAMPSON S. LLOYD.

Gentlemen,

I most sincerely thank those among you, and especially those of the working classes, who have recorded your votes and worked with such untiring perseverance in my favour. I only wish that the result had been more favourable to your hopes; and beg to assure you that those principles which I cannot advocate in Parliament shall be faithfully maintained by me in the Press.

I am, gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

SEBASTIAN EVANS, LL.D.

The political history of the year, however, was not quite concluded by the contest. The result of the general election

was so large a Liberal majority that Mr. Disraeli resigned his office, and Mr. Gladstone was sent for by the Queen to form a Cabinet. In this new Ministry Mr. Bright accepted the office of the President of the Board of Trade, and he accordingly had to appeal to his constituents again. The following is his address to the electors:—

Reform Club, December 12, 1868.

Gentlemen,

It is not a month since you elected me as one of your Representatives in Parliament, and, before the Parliament met, the seat you entrusted to me became vacant.

I have accepted office in the administration which Mr. Gladstone has just formed, and I must return to you to ask you to maintain the step I have taken. I trust you will not withdraw the confidence you have so long placed in me. I shall feel it a great honour again to be selected to represent your voice and interest in the House of Commons.

On the day of election I hope I may be permitted to say more than can conveniently be said in this address.

I am, with the greatest respect,
Very faithfully yours,
JOHN BRIGHT.

The nomination took place at Bingley Hall, on December 21, and the new Minister was nominated by Mr. J. S. Wright and Mr. W. Harris, and re-elected without opposition.

On December 29, the "National Conservative Union" held a meeting at Nock's Hotel, under the presidency of Lord Dartmouth. It was stated at the meeting that the Union had been the means of winning 33 seats out of the total of 48 in boroughs contested under its auspices.

The political history of 1869, affords comparatively little material for the chronicler. The one great event was the disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church. The agitation which this question excited produced a few noisy and exciting meetings; but with this exception the political events of the year were of an ordinary and undisturbing character.

On January the 14th, a special meeting of St. George's Branch of the Reform League was held in the Mutual

Improvement Society's rooms, Great Barr Street, Mr. W. Aston in the chair, at which two of the members for the Borough, Mr. George Dixon and Mr. P. H. Muntz, were present and delivered addresses. A vote of thanks to both members was passed unanimously.

The next meeting was held on February 8, after a public dinner given at the Town Hall, to Mr. S. S. Lloyd and Dr. Sebastian Evans, "in recognition of their services at the recent election." There was a large attendance, the side galleries and the front of the great gallery being occupied by ladies. Mr. J. D. Goodman presided, and among others on the platform were Sir C. B. Adderley, M.P., Mr. H. C. Wise, M.P., Mr. John Hardy, M.P., Rev. C. Marson, Mr. John Lowe, Rev. J. H. Burges, Mr. Edward Gem, Rev. R. B. Burges, Rev. J. B. Gabriel, and Major Smith.

The members of St. Georges' Branch of the Reform League held a meeting on the 18th of March, at which the ratepaying clauses were made the subject of discussion. Mr. Finnemore was in the chair, and Mr. Buttress, Mr. Raffles, Mr. Mason, and others addressed the meeting. All the speakers were of opinion that it was necessary the rate-paying clauses should be repealed, and that Mr. Goschen's bill was not satisfactory. It was, however, resolved that all action should be suspended until the result of the visit of the deputation from the Liberal Association to Mr. Goschen was known. The deputation was received on April 2; it was accompanied by Mr. Dixon. M.P., Mr. Vernon Harcourt, Q.C., M.P., Mr. Muntz, M.P., Mr. C. Foster, and Mr. Mundella, M.P. The members composing the deputation were Mr. J. Jaffray, Mr. J. S. Wright, Mr. G. Baker, Mr. J. Gough, Mr. J. A. Partridge, Mr. Lampard, and Mr. Raffles. The Right Hon. John Bright, M.P., was present during the interview, and took part in the discussion. The Minister made the usual promise, that the subject would receive the attention of the Government.

On the 13th of May, a meeting was held in the Town Hall in opposition to Mr. Gladstone's Irish Church Bill. Mr. Sampson S. Lloyd was in the chair, and addresses were

delivered by the Revs. R. Fishbourne and E. Norman. Another meeting on the same subject was held in the Town Hall, on the 25th, the Earl of Harrowby in the chair, Mr. C. N. Newdegate, M.P., Mr. S. S. Lloyd, and Dr. Sebastian Evans took part in the proceedings. Resolutions in opposition to the Bill, and a petition calling upon the Lords to reject it, were passed.

On Wednesday, May 19, the following paragraph appeared in the *Birmingham Daily Post*:—

Testimonial to Mr. William Harris.—At the close of the last election for Birmingham it was felt by many Liberals that the great services rendered by Mr. William Harris, as honorary secretary of the Liberal Association, and as the inventor of the 'Vote as You're Told' system, ought not to be allowed to pass without recognition. A private subscription was consequently entered into by members of the committee and other friends of the Liberal cause, with the view of offering for Mr. Harris's acceptance a suitable testimonial. Owing to accidental circumstances the presentation was delayed until yesterday, when in the presence of a number of the subscribers, Mr. J. S. Wright, president of the Liberal Association, presented Mr. Harris with a handsome pocket book, containing a sum of £240. The presentation was accompanied with a brief address expressing the general appreciation of Mr. Harris's services to the Liberal cause; and with a brief but hearty acknowledgement from Mr. Harris, the proceedings were brought to a close.

On June 14, a Town's Meeting was held in the Town Hall, to consider the "Irish Church Bill now before Parliament." The Mayor presided, and the Hall was crowded. Letters of apology were read from Mr. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. G. Dixon, M.P.; Mr. P. H. Muntz, M.P.; the Ven. Archdeacon Sandford, Mr. George Dawson, Mr. R. W. Dale, Mr. C. Vince, and the Rev. H. T. Breay. The letters from the three members were as follows:—

London, June 9.

Dear Sir,

I must ask my friends to excuse me if I am unable to accept their invitation for the meeting on Monday next.

The Lords are not very wise, but there is sometimes profit to the people, even in their unwisdom. If they should delay the passing of the Irish Church Bill for three months, they will stimulate discussion on

important questions, which, but for their infatuation, might have slumbered for many years. It is possible, that a good many people may ask what is the special value of a Constitution which gives a majority of 100 in the House for a given policy, and a majority of 100 in another House against it? It may be asked also, why the Crown, through its Ministers in the House of Commons, should be found in harmony with the nation, whilst the Lords are generally in direct opposition to it?

Instead of doing a little childish tinkering about life-peerages, it would be well if the Peers could bring themselves on a line with the opinions and necessities of our day. In harmony with the nation, they may go on for a long time; but, throwing themselves athwart its course, they may meet with accidents not pleasant for them to think of.

But there are not a few good and wise men among the Peers, and we will hope their counsels may prevail.

I am sure you will forgive me if I cannot come to your meeting.

Believe me, always very truly yours,

JOHN BRIGHT.

Mr. H. B. S. Thompson, Secretary,
Birmingham Liberal Association.

House of Commons, 10th June, 1869.

Dear Mr. Harris,

The Endowed Schools Bill will be before the House on Monday next, therefore I am unable to accept the invitation of the Liberal Association, to be present at the meeting to be held in Birmingham on that day, to consider the question of the Irish Church. I am very glad that such a meeting is going to be held, and that the requisition to the Mayor is so numerously signed. The Lords have not yet come to a vote, and it is reasonable to suppose that they will be influenced by the resolutions of a large and influential meeting, convened by the Mayor, and not limited to ticket holders.

I am unwilling to believe that the Lords will be so unwise as to reject the Irish Church Bill; the only circumstances which could justify them in doing so would be, either that many of those who returned the enormous Liberal majority at the general election of last autumn had changed their opinions, or that they were dissatisfied with the details of the bill. In my opinion there is not the slightest ground for believing that either of these events have taken place.

Should the Upper House be so misled as to reject the bill, religious controversy and party feeling will be excited to an extent that will weaken the influence both of the Lords and of the Church they desire to save; but the object they have in view will not be gained.

The Disestablishment and Disendowment of the Irish Church cannot be much delayed by any action of the House of Lords; but what will

probably happen, if prolonged resistance should be attempted, is that the extreme section of the Liberal party in the House of Commons will demand modifications in the present bill less favourable to the pecuniary interests of the landholders and of the Church in Ireland.

Hoping that your meeting will be harmonious and enthusiastic.

I remain, yours very truly,

GEORGE DIXON.

W. Harris, Esq.

London, 11th June, 1869.

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I fear that it will be impossible for me to attend the town's meeting on Monday, but I will if I can.

It is reported that the Peers intend to throw out the Irish Church Bill, but I doubt it, and think that when the division is taken, discretion is the better part of valour.

Believe me, yours truly,

P. H. MUNTZ.

The Mayor of Birmingham.

Mr. Thomas Lloyd moved and Mr. Joseph Chamberlain seconded the following resolution :—

That this meeting is of opinion that the Irish Church Bill introduced by her Majesty's Ministers, being wise in policy and just in principle, and having passed the House of Commons by large majorities, in accordance with the national will as declared at the late general election, ought speedily to become law.

Mr. Sampson S. Lloyd rose to propose an amendment, when a scene of indescribable confusion ensued. Groans, cheers, and Kentish-fire were kept up to such an extent as utterly to prevent the speaker from being heard. In vain he and Dr. Sebastian Evans endeavoured to speak, and in vain the Mayor and other gentlemen attempted to obtain order; scarcely a word was heard. No amendment was proposed, and the resolution was put and carried. Prior to the commencement of the meeting the anti-papal lecturer, Mr. Murphy, attempted to obtain admission into the Hall, and was placed under arrest by order of the Mayor. Mr. Murphy afterwards commenced an action against the Mayor and Mr. Glossop, the Chief of Police, on the charge of illegal imprisonment.

The General Committee of the Birmingham Liberal Association held a meeting on July 12, to consider the course to be adopted in reference to the Peers' Amendments to the Irish Church Bill. Mr. J. S. Wright presided, and the following resolution, proposed by Mr. John Jaffray, seconded by Mr. William Harris, and supported by Archdeacon Sandford, was passed unanimously:—

That this Committee, representing the Liberals of Birmingham, desires to express its earnest hope that the House of Commons will support her Majesty's Ministers in securing in the Irish Church Bill the great principles of religious equality, violated by the amendments introduced by the House of Lords; and that this Committee protests emphatically against re-endowment and concurrent endowment in any form.

It was also arranged to hold a public meeting at the back of the Town Hall. The meeting was held on July 17, Mr. J. S. Wright presiding. The following letter from Mr. Bright was read:—

London, July 16, 1869.

Dear Sir,

I am sure my friends will excuse me if I do not come down to the meeting. I could not undertake to speak at a large open-air meeting, and I cannot leave town on Saturday. From what is passing in the House of Commons, you will see that the Government and the House are anxious to act upon the principles upon which the one was formed and the other elected. It is a grief to me that the House of Lords does not more clearly comprehend the wishes and interests of the country. But I cannot but think it will have learned much from the discussions which have taken place in both Houses on this Irish Church Bill. To me it seems of the first importance that more harmony should be established between the two branches of the legislature. I hope you will have a large and effective meeting.

I am sincerely yours,
JOHN BRIGHT.

Mr. H. B. S. Thompson,
Liberal Association, Birmingham.

The first resolution was moved by Alderman Hawkes, seconded by the Rev. Charles Vince, and supported by Mr. George Dixon, M.P., and Mr. P. H. Muntz, M.P., and was carried by acclamation. It was:—

That this meeting heartily thanks the House of Commons for rejecting the pernicious amendments made by the Peers in the Irish Church Bill, declares that it will resist to the utmost the endowment of any religious body in Ireland, and expresses its entire confidence in Mr. Gladstone's administration.

Mr. Alderman Manton proposed, and the Rev. Arthur O'Neill seconded, the second resolution :—

That in the event of the House of Lords insisting on their amendments in opposition to the national will, as expressed by the last decisions of the Commons, this meeting is of opinion that representatives from the great towns should meet in London at the earliest practicable moment, to take such steps as may be deemed necessary to cause the bill to become law.

This resolution was supported by Mr. J. Raffles, and passed; as was also the following one, moved by Mr. A. Albright, and seconded by Mr. Rutherford :—

That the Executive Committee be authorised to forward the first resolution to Mr. Gladstone, and to carry out the intentions of the second.

The proposed meeting in London was rendered unnecessary by the passing of the Bill, which received the Royal assent on July 27.

EDUCATION AND LITERATURE.

THE first event to be recorded under this head for the year 1861, was a Conference, held on January 24, for the purpose of discussing the subject of providing for the education of neglected and destitute children, and the duty of the Legislative and Executive Government in relation thereto. Sir John Pakington, Bart., M.P., presided, and a large number of the friends of education in Birmingham and the district were present. Mr. Recorder Hill moved :—

That obedience to the laws of God and man is powerfully promoted by the diffusion of sound knowledge and the training up of the young in the exercise of the great duties of life; therefore it is incumbent upon the State to ensure education for all children for whom their parents are, through poverty, unable, or, through ignorance, unwilling, to provide it.

This resolution was seconded by Mr. W. Scholefield, M.P.; and Miss Carpenter, of Bristol, read a paper in which she attributed the neglect of legislation to their ignorance of the subject. She stated that, in England and Wales, in 1857, the number of children between three and fifteen years of age was estimated at 4,908,690, and that only 2,046,000 attended school at all, whilst 2,861,848 received no instruction whatever. The Ven. Archdeacon Hone then spoke on the subject, the Rev. S. Bache and Mr. E. C. Osborne followed, and the resolution modified so as to read—"It is incumbent upon the State, as far as possible, to ensure the means of education to all children," was passed. The meeting was addressed by John D. Guthrie, of Edinburgh, the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, the Rev. Dr. Miller, Lord Ingestre, Dr. Bell, of Edinburgh, Lord Lyttelton, Mr. R. Spooner, M.P., and Mr. S. Hanbury, M.P. In the evening a meeting was held in the Town Hall, under the presidency of the Mayor, (Mr. A. Ryland), at which the resolutions passed at the Conference were confirmed.

A meeting of gentlemen interested in the extension of Ragged Schools was held on March 12, under the presidency of the Mayor. The meeting was originated by the committee of the United Hill Street and Inkleys Schools; and their report for 1860, which was distributed in the room, formed the subject matter on which it was proposed action should be taken. This document stated that the Hill Street Ragged School was among the first of its kind in England, having, under the name of the Samaritan Schools, been commenced in Swallow Street, about the year 1821. Its usefulness had been acknowledged year after year, and the contributions to it had amounted to £80 per annum, though the last two or three years had exhibited a large decrease. The New Inkleys

Schools had progressed during the past year, showing a great increase of children, teachers, and funds over that of any former period, and for the last seven years the happiest results had attended the labours of its promoters. The number of children connected with the two institutions, now that they were amalgamated, was about 100 in the Day School, and 160 in the Sunday School. The union of the two institutions had been effected, the two committees having, after careful thought, felt it expedient to consolidate their efforts, more especially for the realisation of what both needed—a building more commodious and adequate to the wants of the ignorant and outcast juvenile population of the neighbourhood. The amalgamated committee had, as the first result of their united exertions, succeeded in securing a piece of freehold land, the only available freehold in the district, and the conditions entered into with the owner of the property were that the committee should have six months to raise the purchase money, £700., or in default pay the sum of £20. The property comprised some 270 square yards of land. The report afterwards proceeded :—

In taking upon themselves this heavy responsibility, the committee feel justified in making the strongest and most urgent appeal to their friends and the public on behalf of the wretched, ragged, half-starved children of the district, a personal visit to the homes of whom would satisfy the most sceptical that in order to avert the evils of poverty, drunkenness, and dirt, and in many cases of gross immorality and crime, they must come forward and, without waiting for aid from Government, exercise their private charity and, by properly educating these unfortunate children, rescue them from utter ruin, and from being pests to themselves and to society. In order to do this, they must be taught, not only to read and write, but to exercise moral control over their actions, to keep themselves clean, and to maintain themselves by honest labour. But the wretchedness of their homes and, in too many cases, the utter indifference and viciousness of their parents, render such teaching almost impossible unless a 'Free Day Feeding School' and industrial classes could be added. That an Industrial School (as a *branch* of the institution) is imperatively called for will be acknowledged by all who are cognisant of the locality and its population. Such a school, therefore, the committee hope to be able to establish as soon as the necessary funds have been raised for the erection of a more suitable

building. About £1,200 will cover the cost of both land and building; and with that amount we may establish in the centre of the town, and in the very heart of its most abject wretchedness, an institution that shall remedy those social habits and disorders which the Ragged School Conference revealed as sources of many of the more crying evils of our day.

The Mayor and several other gentlemen addressed the meeting, and resolutions were passed in conformity with the recommendations of the report.

A conference was also held between the Worcestershire Union of Institutes and the Birmingham Prize Scheme on the subject of Night Schools. The last meeting was held on March 11, Lord Lyttelton in the chair, at which the following report of the committee was presented:—

1. That the object of night schools should be, not only the education of young persons who have left school, but also of those whose education has been entirely neglected. 2.—That evening schools and classes are best conducted under the superintendence of regularly appointed and paid agency, supplemented by unpaid voluntary teachers, and personally supervised by the clergy, ministers, and others, under whose influence they may have been established. 3.—That it is most desirable that night schools should be kept open for at least eight months in the year, from September to April inclusive. 4.—That, where practicable, night scholars should be divided into sections according to age, as well as into classes according to attainments. 5.—That the schools should be open at least three nights per week for not less than an hour and a half, and that, when practicable, they should be open on successive evenings. 6.—That admission to night schools should be limited to those who work during the day. 7.—That, as kindness is the essential element in the management of night schools, corporal punishment should, if possible, be excluded, and that suspension and expulsion should be substituted. 8.—That it is desirable that a simple code of rules should be adopted for each school, should be suspended in the school room, and should be read periodically. 9.—That it is an important element in the success of night schools that fees should be paid either by or for the scholars. 10.—That the paid agency mentioned in clause 2 may consist of grants from the Committee of the Privy Council on Education, grants from educational and other boards, and voluntary contributions. 11.—That the education given in night schools should be carried to such an extent as to qualify the scholars for admission into the classes connected with the various educational institutes for adults. 12.—That a regular periodical test of progress, with prizes, and the publication of an annual class list, should be adopted to stimulate the progress of night schools.

The report having been received, each clause of it was submitted to discussion, and up to Clause 6 was confirmed. To that clause an addition was made, to the effect that children under twelve years of age should not be admitted to night schools, excepting in special cases to be decided by the managers of particular schools. Clause 7 was struck out. The other clauses were adopted, with but slight alterations. It was then resolved that the committee should be made a permanent one, to give publicity to the foregoing resolutions of the conference, to watch the progress of night schools generally, to entertain all questions arising in connection with them, and to consider the advisability of establishing an association to carry out the above objects.

The National Society for the education of the children of the poor in the principles of the Established Church, held its jubilee meeting on October 29. The Bishop of Worcester preached a sermon in St. Martin's in the morning, and in the evening a public meeting was held in the Music Hall, Lord Calthorpe in the chair. From a statement made by the Rev. L. Tuthiett we learn that the number of schools in union with the society numbered 11,725, containing upwards of 1,100,000 children, the whole number of church schools being 25,000. For twenty years before any more were granted by Parliament large amounts were given by the society for the erection and enlargement of schools. Its building grants up to Christmas 1860 amounted to £372,759, of which nearly £17,000 had been voted to this diocese. Towards the building of elementary school £9,000 had been given, and assistance had been rendered in the building of 9,122 schools, and 2,138 teachers' houses. Since the Society had devoted its attention to training colleges, it had spent £54,000 in the erection of 23 of these institutions. It had also spent £218,000 in the maintenance of its own training colleges, whence had come forth 8,500 teachers. Depositories had been established for the sale of school books, and while its value at first only amounted to £300, they now realised the sum of £27,000. Branch Depositories had been established,

and much good had resulted therefrom, and a monthly publication of the society had obtained a large circulation. Diocesan inspectors had also been appointed, and other means of making education effective adopted. Altogether the society had spent no less a sum than £700,000 in the cause of education. Its income was £14,000.

On the motion of the Bishop, seconded by Lord Lyttelton, the following resolution was passed:—

That this meeting desires to avail itself of this Jubilee Anniversary publicly to record its grateful recognition of the Divine blessing upon the plans and efforts of the National Society for the diffusion and improvement of national education upon the principles of the Established Church during the last fifty years.

Sir John Pakington moved, and Sir Stafford Northcote seconded, the next resolution, which was also passed:—

That this meeting desires to record its deep conviction, that although the voluntary efforts of the clergy and laity have been largly subsidized by that portion of the Parliamentary grants which has fallen to the share of the Church of England Schools, there is still urgent need of the sustained and extended operations of the National Society.

The Right Hon. C. B. Adderley moved a resolution expressing the obligations that the great town of Birmingham was under to the society, and called upon its inhabitants to support its operations. It was seconded by Mr. C. N. Newdigate, M.P., and adopted with acclamation.

An addition was made to our local literature this year. On January 1, 1861, was published the first number of the *Town Crier*, or *Jacob's Belles Lettres*, a monthly periodical of wit and humour, which has taken a high and important position in influencing opinion, and has set an example of uniting free criticism with gentlemanly treatment. For ten years this serial has maintained the principles with which it started. Dealing only with public questions and public men, its strictures are free from all private prejudice and personal favour. No scurrility has ever disgraced its pages, and although the tone of its criticism is often severe, it is so only on those who seek to mislead public opinion,

to defend public abuses, or to pander to ignorance for selfish ends or the gratification of personal ambition. Some noble poems, some keen and biting satire, some pleasant jokes, and much wise and judicious counsel have appeared in its pages; and its influence has been altogether salutary and beneficial. May it still maintain a long and vigorous career, aiding all good things by its support, and keeping in awe all blatant shams and noisy self-seekers, by the strength of its attacks and the fear of its criticisms.

Very few books by Birmingham writers were published this year. Besides a few pamphlets, I have only been able to discover Prison Books and their Authors, by J. A. Langford; Ministers of Health: Sketches, Mystic and Moral, by the Rev. Henry Boyden; and the publication of a new edition of the Graphic Illustrations of Warwickshire, the letter-press matter being entirely re-written by Mr. James Jaffray.

In 1862, the following books were added to the literature of the town:—Pleasant Spots and Famous Places, by J. A. Langford; Golden Words, The Rich and Precious Jewel of God's Holy Word, and Prayer, by Mr. T. B. Wright; Queen Elizabeth: a Dramatic Poem, in Five Acts, by F. S. D.; A Wreath of Leisure Hours, by Orlando Wright; The Statue Banquet: a Fancy Fête at the Crystal Palace, as Witnessed and Related by Arthur Matthison.

The only book of importance added to our literature in 1863, was Traditions of the Old Crown House in Der-Yat-End, in the Lordship of Birmingham, with some notice of English Gilds, by Toulmin Smith.

In 1864, we have the following:—Memorials of Old Birmingham: Men and Names, Founders, Freeholders, and Indwellers from the Thirteenth to the Sixteenth Century, with some Particulars of the Earliest Church of the Reformation Built and Endowed in England, from original and unpublished documents, by Toulmin Smith; Recollections of a Tradesman, by Joshua Vernal; The Impolicy of Capital Punishment Considered, &c., by a Resident of Birmingham; The Grammar School of King Edward VI. in Birmingham;

Its History, and Suggestions for its Improvement, by Historicus; Inventive Drawing: a Practical Development of Elementary Design, by Edward Ball.

In 1865, the following works were added to the literature of the town :—Brother Fabian's Manuscript and other Poems, by Sebastian Evans; History of a Successful Case of Amputation at the Hip-Joint, by J. Sampson Gamgee; On Rupture: Its Causes, Management and Cure, and the various Mechanical Contrivances employed for its Relief, by T. P. Salt; A Selection of Texts for Tombstones, with a Few Epitaphs, collected and arranged by the Rev. Nash Stephenson, M.A.; The Dream of Gerontius, by the Rev. Dr. J. H. Newman. Mr. Charles Rann Kennedy gave us Francis Beaumont: a Tragedy; and Elihu Burritt, A Walk from London to Land's End and Back, with Notes by the Way.

Several important books were added to our local literature in 1866, the principal works being, The Papal Drama: a Historical Essay, by T. H. Gill; Hannibal, a Poem, by Charles Rann Kennedy; An English Grammar, by Matthias Green; Through the Clouds: Thoughts in Plain Verse by the Rev. L. Tuthiett; A Treatise on the Deformities and Debilities of the Lower Extremities, &c., by T. P. Salt; Domestic Treatment of Diseases of Children, on Homœopathic Principles, by Henry R. Irwin; The Mission of Great Sufferers, by Elihu Burritt; Notes on the Geology of the Midland Counties, by John James; Old Pallet's Lecture on Colours, for the Use of Young Artists.

The most important addition made to our literature this year was the publication of Birmingham and the Midland Hardware District; a work which owed its origin to the meeting of the British Association in this town, in 1865. The indefatigable labours and the large local knowledge of Mr. S. Timmins, the editor, so ably seconded by his colleague, Mr. Sebastian Evans, produced a volume which is unique in our literature. The larger part of the multifarious industries which distinguish this town have for the first time received that consideration which they deserve. The papers on each

trade are, with one exception, written by persons who have been for years engaged in the manufactures about which they write; and thus we have authentic information derived from the most reliable sources, and interesting details which in many instances no literary research could supply. Some of the papers are complete and exhaustive histories of the particular industry to which they are devoted; and those which are not quite so perfect in this respect contain all the information which could be obtained, and most probably all that we can hope ever to obtain, upon the origin, progress, and present state of their respective trades. It is a book alike creditable to the town, to its editor, and the numerous contributors, and is one of the most complete records of the history and progress of the industries of a town which has so long enjoyed the reputation of being the "Toy Shop of Europe."

A number of gentlemen wishing in some way to recognise the great services rendered to the cause of literature and education in this town by Mr. Samuel Timmins, resolved to present him with a portrait of himself, painted by Mr. Roden. A dinner was given at Nock's Hotel, on December 22nd, to celebrate the event. The chair was occupied by Mr. George Dawson, M.A., who, in a very graceful and genial speech, made the presentation in behalf of the assembled friends, every one of whom felt that such a recognition was never more richly deserved.

Early in 1867, a series of conferences was held on the subject of education, which have led to the most productive results. These meetings, held on the invitation of the Mayor, resulted in the formation of the Birmingham Education Society, and were the prelude to the organisation of the National Education League; which has been chiefly instrumental in procuring a scheme of national education, although not the scheme which the League desired. The first of these meetings was held on February 13, at the Mayor's residence, "The Dales."

The Mayor opened the proceedings by calling upon Mr. Bremer, hon. secretary of the Manchester Education Aid Society, to read a paper on the state of education in that city, and the difficulties with which the society had to contend in their efforts to improve it. The Rev. H. M. Capel also read a paper on the state of education in Birmingham. From a paper printed and circulated amongst those present at the Conference we obtain the following comparison of the education of boys and girls between the ages of 3 and 12 at Birmingham and Manchester. In 1867 there were 50 per cent. at day school, 10 per cent. at work, and 40 per cent. neither at school nor work. In 1866 the members respectively, 41, 7, and 52 per cent. The Rev. Dr. Temple delivered an address on the general subject. The Mayor moved, and the Rev. C. Evans (head master of the Free Grammar School) seconded the following resolution:—

That in the opinion of this meeting increased powers are necessary for the extension of the means of education; and that for this purpose it is desirable to apply to Parliament for an Act empowering municipal corporations to levy rates for educational purposes.

Mr. W. L. Sargant moved, and Mr. J. T. Bunce seconded the second resolution:—

That this meeting approves of the principle that children of tender age shall not be employed unless due provision be made for their instruction at school.

After considerable discussion, in which Dr. Wilkinson, Mr. R. Baker, the Hon. and Rev. Grantham Yorke, the Rev. G. B. Johnson, the Rev. H. Sandford, Mr. Alderman Holland, Mr. Councillor Gameson, Mr. J. S. Wright, Mr. W. L. Sargant, Mr. Alderman E. C. Osborne, Mr. Alderman H. Manton, the Rev. W. Gover, Mr. Alderman Ryland, Mr. Sebastian Evans, Mr. J. T. Bunce, and Mr. J. A. Langford took part, both resolutions were almost unanimously passed. The third resolution on the subject of compulsory education was left to be considered at an adjourned meeting of the conference.

The adjourned conference was resumed on the 24th, at the Chamber of Commerce, Exchange Buildings. The Mayor,

Mr. G. Dixon, occupied the chair, and almost all the gentlemen who attended the first meeting were present. Letters were read from Mr. George Dawson, M.A., Mr. T. C. S. Kynnersley, the Rev. G. B. Johnson, Dr. Temple, and others, apologising for their absence, and giving the opinions of the writers on the resolution to be discussed. Previously to moving the resolution, the Mayor called upon Mr. W. Ryland, Mr. B. Smith, and Mr. J. A. Langford to lay before the meeting the result of the inquiries which they had made as to the opinions of working men on the subject. The united testimony of these speakers was that the working men were in favour of some scheme of compulsory education. The Mayor then moved the third resolution, which was as follows:—

That, whereas it has been ascertained that there are large numbers of persons who are able to send their children to school and yet who do not do so, either from apathy or from selfish considerations, it is the opinion of this meeting, that a due regard for the interests of those children, thus neglected, imposes on the Government the duty of passing a law, inflicting penalties on the parents of children for whose continued absence from school there is not, in the opinion of the magistrates, a sufficient reason given.

Mr. J. Chamberlain seconded the motion, which was supported by Mr. S. Timmins. Mr. W. L. Sargant moved, as an amendment:—

That this meeting declines to recommend any general system of compulsory instruction, but that it is of opinion that the Industrial Schools Act, extended by the light of experience, may prove a means of securing the instruction of neglected children.

The amendment was seconded by the Hon. and Rev. Grantham Yorke. The Rev. R. W. Dale spoke in favour of the resolution; and on the motion of the Rev. W. Gover, seconded by Mr. Alderman Manton, the conference was again adjourned.

The third and last meeting of the conference was held in the Council Chamber, on March 5, under the presidency of the Mayor. The subject for consideration was the following

resolution, moved at the previous meeting by the Mayor, seconded by Mr. J. Chamberlain, and supported by Mr. S. Timmins :—

That whereas it has been ascertained that there are large numbers of persons who are able to send their children to school, and yet who do not do so, either from apathy or from selfish considerations, it is the opinion of this meeting that a due regard for the interests of those children, thus neglected, imposes on the Government the duty of passing a law, inflicting penalties on the parents of children for whose continued absence from school there is not, in the opinion of the magistrates, a sufficient reason given.

And the amendment, proposed by Mr. W. L. Sargant, and seconded by the Hon. and Rev. Grantham Yorke :—

That this meeting declines to recommend any general system of compulsory instruction ; but that it is of opinion that the Industrial Schools Act, extended by the light of experience, may prove a means of securing the instruction of neglected children.

The Rev. W. Gover opened the conference by proposing the following amendment :—

That whereas it has been ascertained that there are large numbers of persons who do not send their children to school, either from poverty, apathy, or selfish considerations, it is the opinion of this meeting that a due regard for the interests of those children thus neglected require the establishment of free schools, and the adoption of legislative measures for securing their education.

This was seconded by Mr. Councillor Brooke Smith. Mr. W. Mathews, jun., then moved a third amendment to the effect :—

That it is the duty of the legislature to pass a general law for the compulsory education of children.

This was seconded by Mr. J. A. Langford. The Revs. C. Marson, C. T. Wilkinson, G. D. Boyle, Mr. Alderman Manton, Mr. J. T. Bunce, and Mr. T. C. S. Kynnersley supported Mr. Sargant's amendment ; and the one proposed by Mr. Mathews was supported by the Rev. C. Clarke and Mr. Alderman Holland ; Mr. J. Chamberlain and Mr. S. Timmins accepting it in place of the resolution which they had previously

supported. On being put the amendment of Mr. Sargant was carried. The Mayor then moved, and the Rev. R. W. Dale seconded, a resolution to the effect that a society be formed for the purpose of carrying out the resolutions adopted by the conference, and for taking any other steps to aid the cause of education, and that the subscription be one guinea per annum. The Mayor having vacated the chair, and the same being taken by Mr. J. D. Goodman, Mr. Kynnersley moved—

That the cordial thanks of this meeting be given to the Mayor for the zeal with which he has taken up and prosecuted the important subject of national education ; the ability, courtesy, liberality, and impartiality which have marked his conduct in the chair ; and for the opportunity which he has afforded to the people of this borough of considering and carrying into effect the principles which he has advocated.

The resolution was seconded by the Rev. Dr. Wilkinson, supported by the Rev. C. Evans, and passed with acclamation. The Mayor having cordially acknowledged the vote of thanks, this most interesting series of meetings was brought to an end.

These conferences soon led to some good practical result. On March 11, a meeting was held, on the invitation of the Mayor, of gentlemen desirous of forming an association for the promotion of education in Birmingham. There was a large attendance; and on the motion of the Mayor it was resolved, "That the name of the Society be the 'Birmingham Education Society.'" The following gentlemen were appointed a committee to draw up the rules:—The Mayor, the Hon. and Rev. G. M. Yorke, Dr. Wilkinson, Rev. C. Evans, Rev. W. Gover, Rev. R. W. Dale, Mr. T. C. S. Kynnersley, Mr. W. L. Sargant, Aldermen Osborne, Ryland and Manton, Messrs. Joseph Chamberlain, William Matthews, jun., J. T. Bunce, Rev. C. Vince, Mr. George Dawson, Rev. N. Sullivan, Mr. S. Timmins, and Mr. Sebastian Evans. The following resolution was also passed :—

That the committee appointed by the preceding resolution be authorised, if after due consideration they shall so think fit, to issue circulars soliciting subscriptions, and to print for general circulation an abstract

of the speeches made at the private meetings at which the resolutions were passed which led to the formation of this society. Also to take into consideration the provisions of the Factory Bill now before Parliament.

The Provisional Committee presented their Report at a meeting held on March 28. The Rules recommended, were, with a few modifications, adopted. It was named "The Birmingham Education Society," having for its object the advancement of Education in Birmingham and the immediate neighbourhood:—

1.—By collecting and disseminating information on the subject generally. 2.—By taking steps for obtaining local rating powers on behalf of Education. 3.—By securing Educational provisions in any legislative measures for the regulation of labour. 4.—By paying all or part of the school fees for the Education of children, whose parents or guardians cannot pay such fees themselves. 5.—By raising and distributing funds for, or towards, the enlargement, the building, and the maintenance of schools. 6.—By adopting any other measures, from time to time, which may seem best calculated to advance the objects of the Society.

On the 17th of June, a general meeting was held, when the report of the provisional committee was received and adopted, and a committee of twenty-five members, with a president and other officers was elected.

A special meeting of the Town Council was held on June 4th to discuss a question, submitted by the Mayor, of paramount importance; viz.: that corporate bodies should be empowered to levy rates for educational purposes. The debate was adjourned several times, and at a special meeting, held on October 29th, was resumed, when the following amendment, proposed by Mr. Alderman Holland, was passed:—

That, in the opinion of this Council, there should be established and maintained in England and Wales a national and compulsory system of Education.

The following were then appointed a "School Committee" to consider the best means of giving effect to the preceding resolution, and to report to the Council:—Aldermen Brinsley, Osborne, Sadler, and Ryland; Councillors Dixon, Pickering, Harris, Chaplin, and Edwards.

On the 25th, at a special meeting, the following resolution, moved by Mr. Alderman Ryland, was adopted by a large majority :—

That such a contribution as will be sufficient to provide schools for forty boys, under the 'Industrial Schools' Act, 1866,' be made, pursuant to that Act, by this Council ; and that the Finance, Rate, and Appeal Committee be instructed to make provision in their estimates for the next borough rate for such contribution ; and also that in the meantime the General Purposes Committee be instructed to obtain a site for such schools, and plans and specifications for the erection of buildings thereon, and to submit the same, together with estimates of the cost of establishing and maintaining such schools, to this Council for approval.

In December, the Head Master of King Edward's School, issued the following circular :—

King Edward's School, Birmingham,
December 20, 1867.

Sir,

I hope that the urgency of the case which I am about to submit to you may be considered a sufficient apology for my troubling you with this letter.

During the last year my attention, in common with that of many others, has been closely directed to the state of education among the poorer classes of Birmingham, and careful statistics have been obtained as to the number of children who are now under instruction. I am informed that a large number of children, probably not less than 20,000, are entirely without education, and are growing up in the midst of us in ignorance and evil habits. Such a condition of a large portion of the rising generation cannot be regarded, whether from a religious or moral or social point of view, without grave anxiety on the part of all who take an interest in the welfare of their fellow townsmen and of their country. Among the many causes which may be assigned for such a result, the foremost appears to me to be the want of good schools, the number of which, at the present time, is miserably inadequate to the requirements of the population. Experience proves that a new school is no sooner erected and placed under good management than a second school is wanted in the same locality : the desire for education appears to grow with the facility of obtaining it, and contrary to the usual order of things, the supply of schools creates the demand for them. At the present time forty or even fifty additional schools would not be many for the wants of the town, and it must be remembered that our population is increasing at the rate of about seventy thousand every ten years. The average cost of building a suitable school for boys, girls, and infants,

including the purchase of the site, will probably be not less than £2,500; from this circumstance some idea may be formed of the magnitude of the work to be done.

During the last thirty years upwards of twelve thousand pupils have received a gratuitous education upon the foundation of King Edward the Sixth in this town. Of this number some have already shown their gratitude to their old school by liberal donations in the cause of education; many others, I am assured, are anxious to make a like recognition of the benefits which they have received from this foundation. It has occurred to me that such a feeling would find its most appropriate expression in a combined effort, on the part of present and former members of the school, to place the blessing of education within the reach of some of the poor, who are now perishing for lack of knowledge. Accordingly, to all who have been connected with this foundation, either as pupils or as parents of pupils, I venture to appeal for contributions in aid of a fund to be called 'King Edward the Sixth's Memorial School Fund.' This fund will be devoted to the erection of schools in the most destitute districts of the town, where children, now neglected, may learn to grow up in the fear of God, and in habits of order and industry.

As regards the religious constitution of the Memorial Schools, it is proposed to place them in connection with the Church of England, but to carry out the same system of toleration and perfect equality which has been adopted in King Edward's Schools, where children of all religious denominations are admitted without distinction, and without any sacrifice of religious principles. In order to secure the permanence of this arrangement, a liberal conscience clause will be inserted in the foundation deed of each school.

Earnestly commending this appeal to your consideration,

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES EVANS,

Head Master.

On December 31st a report of the Education Society was published, which gave the following statistics: The population of the town was 343,948, there was school accommodation for 29,275, and the attendance at schools was 18,561, or 8·41 average per cent. on the whole population.

During 1867, the following new books were added to the literature of the town:

The History of the Litigation and Legislation respecting Presbyterian Chapels and Churches in England and Ireland, between 1816 and 1849,

by T. S. James; Practical Proceedings for the Removal of Nuisances to Health and Safety, and for the Execution of Sewerage Works in Towns and Rural Parishes, under the Common Law and under Recent Statutes, with numerous forms of Instruction for conducting the business of Local Authorities, by Toulmin Smith; Recent Political Economy, by William Lucas Sargant; La Nobla Leyczon, in English verse, by the Rev. H. Vickers, B.A.; A Century of Birmingham Life, a Chronicle of Local Events from 1741 to 1841, vol. I., by J. A. Langford; Carella: Lyrics, Lays, and Sympathies, by J. J. Britton.

The impetus given to the question of education in 1867, was continued in 1868. The Government applied to the Council of the Chamber of Commerce to furnish information on the subject of technical education. A meeting was held on January 6, under the presidency of Mr. George Dixon, M.P., who stated that the information sought was:—

1.—What trades are now being injured by the want of technical education?

2.—How, and in what particulars, are they being injured?

3.—How do other countries, from their greater attention to technical instruction, absorb our trade? [Give instances, and, if possible, statistics.]

4.—What plan of technical education would remedy the evil?

Mr. Mundella attended, and gave the meeting some interesting statistics of the state of technical education on the continent; and Messrs. A. Field, J. Lowe, W. C. Aitken, J. S. Manton, H. Wagner, B. Browett, and F. Osler, took part in the proceedings.

At the meeting of the Town Council on the 7th, it was resolved that the General Purposes Committee be authorized to take a lease of Strawberry Farm, near Shustoke, for the purposes of an Industrial School. Alderman Holland submitted the report of the school committee, which was as follows:—

The school committee, appointed to consider the best means of giving effect to the resolution of the Council No. 6,153, viz.: That in the opinion of this Council there should be established and maintained in England and Wales a national and compulsory system of education; report that, in their opinion, the best means of giving effect to the views

of the Council will be by obtaining the introduction into Parliament of a comprehensive measure of national education, based on Local rating and management in union with State aid, and including compulsory provisions directed against parents who neglect to avail themselves of the means of education so afforded; and your committee have prepared, and now submit for the approval of the Council, the following memorial to the Right Honourable the Earl of Derby, K.G., as the head of Her Majesty's Government, praying that the Government will cause such a measure to be prepared and laid before Parliament during the present session.

On the 10th, an adjourned meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held, to consider the subject of technical education. Mr. G. Dixon, M.P., presided, and Mr. B. Samuelson, M.P., for Banbury, attended and addressed the meeting. There was a long discussion, and ultimately the following resolution was passed, with three dissentients:—

That the Council be instructed to request the Associated Chamber of Commerce to inform Lord Robert Montagu that, in the opinion of this Chamber, it is of the utmost importance that Government schools of science should be established in the great centres of industry, for the purpose of giving technical instruction both to the middle and to the working classes.

On January 24th, a meeting of managers, practical foremen, artizans, professional gentlemen, and others interested in the advance of technical education was held in the Committee Room of the Town Hall. Mr. Sebastian Evans, M.A., presided. After a long discussion the meeting was adjourned without passing any resolution.

The adjourned meeting on technical education was held on the 31st, Mr. Sebastian Evans, M.A., again presiding. On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. J. A. Langford, the following resolutions were passed:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the existing institutions for conveying technical education in Birmingham, by judicious administration and expansion, and by encouragement and assistance from Government, may be rendered adequate to supply the needs of the town, without the establishment of new Government schools of science.

That a society be now formed for assisting the local institutions for

promoting technical education in Birmingham, and other purposes connected with the interests of skilled labour; and that the artizans of Birmingham and the neighbourhood, selected by the Society of Arts to report on the Paris Exhibition, be appointed a committee, with power to add to their number, and be requested to take the necessary steps for organising such society, and to report to a future meeting.

The first annual meeting of the Education Society was held on April 17. Mr. G. Dixon, M.P., president, in the chair. The report afforded some very interesting information on the state of education among the working classes and the poor. The borough contained 1,027 streets, of which 273 were of a class not requiring to be visited; and the society had thoroughly canvassed the remaining 754. The following are extracts from the report:—

There are now 80 schools on the list of the society to which children are sent free. This comprises four-fifths of the whole number in Birmingham. The cases of the children have been strictly examined before grants have been made, in order to avoid the demoralisation resulting from giving aid to those who could afford to educate their own children. In this matter the committee have been guided, in a great measure, by the number of persons in each family and their aggregate weekly earnings.

In order to ascertain the capacity of the school accommodation in Birmingham to meet the expected requirements of the Factory and Workshops Bills, all the schools in Birmingham—92 in number—were visited in November last, when the following results were obtained:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Infants.	Mixed.	Grand Total.
Total accommodation	9,180	6,675	4,720	8,700	29,275
Average attendance	6,404	3,998	3,152	4,978	18,532
Vacancies for	2,776	2,677	1,568	3,722	10,743

The following table, compiled from the above-mentioned returns, shows the school accommodation in the several wards of the borough, with the proportion to population, the latter being calculated on the Registrar General's estimate to the middle of the year 1867:—

Registrar's Districts.	Population.	School accommodation.	Average atttendance of scholars.	Per cent. of accommodation to population.
All Saints'	24,357	1,480	872	6·07
Deritend	37,597	3,050	1,898	8·11
Duddeston	47,772	2,830	1,898	5·92
Edgbaston	15,409	960	850	6·03
Ladywood	47,322	4,325	2,973	9·01
St. George's	49,808	3,620	2,299	7·26
St. Martin's	36,261	2,880	1,994	7·94
St. Mary's	16,971	2,620	1,262	15·43
St. Paul's	9,214	450	270	4·08
St. Peter's	14,655	2,620	1,391	11·05
St. Philip's	9,104	1,150	722	12·63
St. Thomas's	35,478	3,290	2,102	9·27
Total	343,948	29,275	18,531	

School accommodation for 8·41 average per cent. upon whole population.

The report was approved, and the committee re-appointed.

This year a few working men organised a society for the improvement of their own order in science, and to assist in the development of a system of practical technical education. Prior to the opening of the Universal Exhibition at Paris, in 1867, the Society of Arts made a proposal to send a number of English workmen to visit the Exhibition, and to prepare reports on the articles of their different trades. The Society applied to the Government to assist the plan by a money contribution towards the necessary expenses; and a sum was granted for that purpose. An application was also made to the various Chambers of Commerce throughout the kingdom for co-operation and assistance. The Birmingham Chamber took up the question with great heartiness, and twenty-five artisans and mechanics were selected to visit the Exhibition and to report on the trades of that centre of industry. The general tenor of their reports showed a strong conviction that the English workman was deficient in technical education, and in this respect fell far short of his continental fellow craftsman. With the practical common sense which distinguishes the best members of the class, they resolved, on their return, to take the matter into their

own hands, and to provide the means for that technical education which their experience had proved to be so much needed. A meeting was held, and it was resolved to form a society for that purpose. This was done, and the "Birmingham Society of Artizans" at once began the work of self-education. The scheme adopted was threefold, including papers on trade subjects, by the members themselves; lectures by qualified persons upon subjects connected with the application of science and art to trade; and the formation of science classes for adults. The first annual meeting took place on April 25, 1868, when Mr. George Dixon, M.P., was elected President, and Mr. J. A. Langford, LL.D., Vice-President. The subscription was one shilling a quarter, and all the meetings of the society were free to workingmen. The Council of the Birmingham and Midland Institute kindly gave the free use of a room for the Saturday night meetings, at which papers were read, followed by discussion. Papers were read on the "Scheme of Technical Instruction best suited to the needs of Birmingham;" on "Form and Design, as illustrated in the structure of plants and animals;" on "Machinery, in its relation to Capital and Labour;" on "Chromo-Lithography;" on "Venetian Glass;" and on the subject of "National Education."

The most important part of the Society's proceedings, was the Free Science Classes. This department began its operations with four classes for the study of Chemistry, Electricity and Magnetism, Mechanical Drawing, and Geometry. Certificated and qualified teachers offered their services gratuitously, and the classes were well attended from the first. The chemistry class, for example, numbered, during the last term of 1868 and the first term of 1869, sixty-eight members, all adults and all belonging to the working class. From the register of this class we should say that almost every trade in the town furnished its quota of members. These classes were placed in connection with the Science and Art Department of South Kensington, and at the examination in May, 1869, nineteen students went up

for examination, and fifteen passed. In addition to these classes there were others for the study of free-hand and model drawing; machine and geometrical drawing; animal physiology, and additional classes for chemistry and electricity.

This year was distinguished by the establishment of an undenominational school at Brookfields. Its success was mainly due to the indefatigable exertions of Mr. Henry Payton.

On the 9th of June, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, under the presidency of the Mayor, to "take into consideration the deplorable deficiency of the provision for education in this town, and the means proposed by the Birmingham Education Society to remedy the existing evils." Mr. R. W. Dale stated that there were 15,000 children, between the ages of three and six, who were neither at school nor at work; and a resolution, moved by the Rev. Dr. Wilkinson, "That the existing provisions for the education of the people in Birmingham are insufficient to meet the wants of the community," was carried unanimously. Archdeacon Sandford moved, and Mr. Alderman Hawkes seconded, the following resolution, which was also carried:—

That the Birmingham Education Society having been formed to meet this deficiency by raising funds to provide instruction for the poor, and by taking steps to obtain rating powers on behalf of education, is worthy the support of the town.

On the motion of the Rev. C. Clarke, seconded by the Rev. Canon Gover, the following resolution was passed:—

That, in consequence of the large amount now being paid for the school fees of poor children, the expenditure of the society is very much above its income; and this meeting pledges itself to make efforts to secure such addition to its funds as shall enable the committee to extend their operations, or at least continue them on the present scheme, so that none of the 5,000 poor children now at school may be dismissed back again into the street.

At a meeting of the Town Council, held September 1, the subject of the Free Grammar School was once more discussed,

and the following resolution was passed:—"That this Council is of opinion that the election of the Governors of the Free Grammar School should be vested in the Council of the borough of Birmingham, as approved by the Council in the memorial submitted to them by the General Purposes Committee on the 30th of May, 1865." A resolution was also passed to the effect that the Council, having reconsidered the recommendation of the Royal Commissioners, rejoice to observe that, in these recommendations, they recognised the right of the Council of the borough to have a voice in the government of the Free Grammar School; and in order to afford time for deliberation, deem it advisable to postpone further consideration of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee till the monthly meeting in January.

At the meeting held on January 5, 1869, the Council renewed the discussion in reference to the Free Grammar School; and Alderman Osborne moved: "That this Council having declared its opinion that the election of Governors of the Free Grammar School should be vested in the Council of the Borough of Birmingham, in preference to the recommendations contained in the report of the General Purposes Committee presented to the Council on the 27th July last, resolved, that a special committee be now appointed consisting of eight members of the Council, to be called 'The Grammar School Bill Committee,' and that such committee be instructed to prepare and present to the council the heads of a bill for the purpose of obtaining Parliamentary power to transfer to the Council all property and interest of whatsoever kind now or hereafter in possession of the Governors of the Free Grammar School, and to vest the future management and control thereof in the Council; and that it be an instruction to the committee to introduce into the bill power to borrow money on the security of the property of the Free Grammar School." The resolution was carried by 30 against 13 votes; 7 members of the Council remaining neutral.

At a meeting of the Town Council, held on February 2, a memorial from the committee of the Gem Street Industrial School was read. It set forth, firstly, the history and opera-

tions of the institution, which is capable of holding 120 inmates; it stated, secondly, that the committee, though it had recently made considerable reduction in the expenditure, and beyond which it would not be consistent with the efficiency of the school to go, found itself hampered with a debt of £500, with the prospect, too, of a future annual deficiency of £160; and concluded by praying the Council, as the prison authority of the borough, to make a grant of £500 towards the support of the institution, together with an annual contribution in future. It was referred to the General Purposes Committee.

On February 4, a public meeting of the working men was held, on the subject of education. Mr. J. S. Wright presided, and Mr. Jesse Collings delivered an address on the subject. He read the programme of the National Education League, which had been founded some time before, at a private meeting held at the residence of Mr. Dixon, M.P. Several meetings were afterwards held, and it was resolved to form a League having for its object, "the establishment of a system which shall secure the education of every child in England and Wales." The basis of the League being:—

1.—Local authorities shall be compelled by law to see that sufficient school accommodation is provided for every child in their district. 2.—The cost of founding and maintaining such schools as may be required shall be provided out of the local rates, supplemented by Governmental grants. 3.—All schools aided by local rates shall be under the management of local authorities, and subject to Government inspection. 4.—All schools aided by local rates shall be unsectarian. 5.—To all schools aided by local rates admission shall be free. 6.—School accommodation being provided, the state or the local authorities shall have power to compel the attendance of children of suitable age not otherwise receiving education.

On the 22nd of March, the memorial stone of the new Workhouse schools for boys was laid at Birmingham Heath, by Mr. George Baker, the chairman of the Board. Prior to the ceremony the company were entertained at breakfast by Mr. Baker. The new schools provide accommodation for 300 boys; and cost about £8,000.

The second annual meeting of the Education Society was held on April 28; the following extracts from the report will show the nature and the extent of its work:—

Last year your committee reported that the school accommodation in Birmingham was for about 1 in 12½ of the whole population. They can report but a very small increase this year, though want of accommodation is not the cause of the absence of children, as there are very few schools which cannot receive more.

The very short time which constitutes the school life of most children is altogether insufficient for the purpose of education, and in consequence of this, much of what is learnt is speedily forgotton after leaving school. This conclusion is borne out by results of the examination instituted by your committee of the young persons between 13 and 21 years of age, employed in factories. Out of 908 young persons examined in the fourth standard, only 41, or about 4½ per cent., could pass.

As an illustration of the early age at which children leave school, it is found that of the whole number, 17,023, at school, 10,890 were between three and nine years, and of these 2,559 were between three and five. The largest number (2,220) was between seven and eight, after which age the numbers gradually fall off, till between 11 and 12 there were only 1,148, and between 12 and 13 only 715. The more important facts, however, which your Society's labours have brought to light are those referring to the children not at school at all, and they are so serious that your committee feel bound to keep them before the public. Of the 45,056 children between the ages of 3 and 15 years visited by this Society last year—

There were, at the time of this inquiry, at school	17,023
At work	6,337
Neither at school nor at work	21,696
Could read and write	13,380
Read only	5,482
Neither read nor write	26,194

These facts are the results of a most carefully conducted inquiry, the name, residence, condition, and other particulars of each of these 45,056 children being fully recorded, and open to the inspection of anyone, at the office of the society. Your committee feel that they cannot overstate the serious consequences that must ensue to society from the fact of 21,696, out of 45,056, or nearly half the children in Birmingham, growing up in ignorance and idleness.

Of the 37,122 children between the ages of 5 and 15, the following are the particulars:—

Number at the time of the inquiry at school	14,464
At work	6,337
Neither at school nor at work	16,321

Could read and write	13,380
Read only	5,147
Neither read nor write	18,595

To meet the objection that five is too early an age at which to test educational acquirements, the following particulars are given respecting 16,595 of these children who were between the ages of 10 and 15 :—

There were, at the time of inquiry, at school .	4,173
At work	6,161
Neither at School nor at work	6,261
Could read and write	8,252
Read only	2,363
Neither read nor write	5,980

While admitting the apathy that exists on the part of the parents with respect to the education of their children, the committee entertain no doubt that poverty is the cause of absence of a large number of children from school : thus it is seen that out of 300 families, containing 1,842 persons, with an average income of 1s. 1¼d. per week per head, exclusive of rent, 31 children only were at school, while from 300 families, containing 1,970 persons, with an average income of 1s. 10¼d. per week, exclusive of rent, 240 children were at school.

In August 1868, the whole of the schools in Birmingham were visited to find the amount of accommodation in the town, and, allowing eight square feet to each child, there was found to be school room for 31,364 children.

The average attendance was about 20,000, leaving vacancies for about 11,000.

Your committee, believing that no child between the ages of 5 and 15 should be wholly absent from school, are of opinion that the educational or half-time clauses of the Factory Act should be extended to the workshops ; they are also of opinion that some regulations should be adopted affecting children neither at work nor at school.

If this were done, school accommodation would have to be provided for about 14,000 more children.

The Society began granting Free School Orders in July, 1867, the total number issued up to March, 1868, was 6,313 ; since then only about 40 have been granted, making 6,353 in all.

Number at School at this date	2,076
Orders withdrawn, the circumstances of the cases having altered.	363
Left School for various reasons	3,914
Total	6,353

More than half however, (3,471), have been re-visited, and the particulars respecting them are as follows :—

At School	1,494
At work	201
Not attending—illness and want of clothes	269
In Workhouse and other Institutions.	72
Not attending—no cause given	142
Dead	46
Left the district and not found	1,227
Dismissed by School Managers for various reasons	20
Total	3,471

So that of 3,471 children re-visited, who have received Free School Orders since July 1867, only 1,494 are now at school, and this number is diminishing monthly. The greater portion have left on account of "removals," but it should be understood that a removal does not cancel a child's Free School Order, as the order can, on application be transferred to another school more conveniently situated.

On August 18, a meeting was held to consider the subject of national education, and to form a society for the extension of the present system. Mr. T. C. S. Kynnersley was in the chair, and the Revs. G. M. Yorke, F. S. Dale, C. T. Wilkinson, R. B. Burges, Mr. J. D. Goodman, Alderman Manton, Councillor Lowe, Dr. Sebastian Evans, and many others, took part in the proceedings, and the following resolutions were passed:—Moved by Mr. J. D. Goodman, seconded by the Hon. Rev. G. M. Yorke :—

That this meeting, while urging the necessity for a more extended system of popular education, thankfully recognises the great work which is being done with increasing success by the present voluntary State-aid system; and expresses a conviction that the present system is so intimately bound up with the institutions and feelings of a large proportion of the people that it would be most inexpedient to destroy it.

Moved by Mr. S. Hopkins, seconded by the Rev. C. Marson :—

That this meeting believes that the adoption of free and rate-supported schools must result in the destruction of existing schools.

Moved by the Rev. C. T. Wilkinson, and seconded by the Rev. R. B. Burges :—

That this meeting is of opinion that the existing denominational system, with some modfications and expansion, may be made more efficient for the education of the people than any system which would tend to check the voluntary efforts of religious bodies.

Moved by Mr. Kekewich, and seconded by Mr. John Lowe :—

That this meeting is of opinion that the cost of popular education cannot fairly be thrown upon the local rates to the extent proposed by the advocates of free schools.

Moved by Dr. S. Evans, and seconded by the Rev. G. Pettitt :—

That a society be now formed for the purpose of carrying into effect the foregoing resolutions for the extension of the present system of national education, on the basis of the suggestions prepared and circulated by the Provisional Committee ; and that the gentlemen present be formed into a committee, with power to add to their number.

The following is the document referred to in the resolution :

Feeling the necessity of a more complete system of national education in order to reach the children at present neglected and untaught, and convinced that any scheme based upon the principle of free and rate-supported schools will be found impracticable, we are prepared to ask for an extension of the present system, believing, that with such additions and modifications as are indicated below, the present denominational system will best meet the necessities of the country.

We object to the plan of free and rate-supported schools :—

1.—Because it would inevitably supersede the present voluntary system. The managers of existing schools would find it impossible to compete with free and rate-supported schools. Thus the whole cost of primary education (more than two-thirds of which is at present met by school fees and voluntary contributions) would fall upon the rates and taxes.

2.—Because it is unjust to throw upon local rates a burden which, if imposed at all, ought to be borne by the whole income of the country. Local rates are already excessive, amounting in many places to 7s. in the pound. If these be increased by more than two-thirds of the whole cost of national education, the burden would be intolerable.

In support of an extension of the present system, we submit :—

1.—That the case of those who are too poor to pay school fees might be met by a system of free school tickets, to be issued by the Town Council or other competent authority. (It is calculated that in Birmingham a penny rate on the whole borough, amounting to £4,000, would fully meet this demand).

2.—That the religious difficulty may be removed (1) by the general adoption of a conscience clause, so worded that it shall not interfere with the religious freedom of the managers, while securing children from attendance at religious services or lessons to which their parents shall make objection; and (2) by the admission of secular schools to shares in the Government grant on the same terms as other schools.

3.—That it is desirable to have larger building grants for poor districts, and also larger maintenance grants for districts with small populations (these grants to be made out of the Imperial Fund, as the burden upon local rates is already excessive.) That there should be in special cases some relaxation of existing rules with regard to certificated teachers and building requirements; and that some responsible person or persons in each locality should be empowered to represent to the central authority such special cases for consideration, and to suggest means for supplying the necessities of destitute and neglected neighbourhoods.

4.—We believe that with such increased aid and encouragement, the voluntary system would prove equal to the supply and support of a sufficient number of schools, even in poor and neglected districts.

5.—Such modifications in the existing system as are suggested above, would do much to prepare the way for a measure of compulsory attendance, if hereafter considered necessary.

The first Conference of the National Education League was held in the Exchange Assembly Rooms, on October 12 and 13. Mr. George Dixon, M.P., was elected chairman, and Mr. Jesse Collings, (honorary secretary), read the following report of the Provisional Committee:—

The provisional committee think it desirable to lay before the first meeting of members a brief statement of the reasons which led to the formation of the National Education League, the object of the association, and the steps which have been taken towards its organization.

On all hands it has long since been admitted that the present system of education fails to meet the requirements of the country; that voluntary efforts reach only the richer districts, and these imperfectly; and that the poorer districts are left practically uncared for, Government aid being wholly dependent upon previous local expenditure.

Recent enquiries prove that, even in districts best provided with educational means, the real value of these means is greatly below what it was supposed to be. The reports of the Manchester Education Aid Society, and of the Birmingham Education Society, for instance, reveal a state of things calculated to arrest attention and excite alarm.

An enquiry instituted by the Manchester Society showed that in Manchester and Salford the number of children of all classes between

three years and twelve years, was 100,000. Of these only 55,000 were on the books of public elementary schools, and of this latter number the average attendance was but 38,000.

In Birmingham, out of 35,018 children between the ages of three and twelve visited by the agents of the Education Society, only 15,490 were at school. Of 45,056 children between three and fifteen years, 17,023 were at school, 6,337 at work, and 21,696 were neither at school nor at work. Of the 17,023 who were at school, 10,890 were under nine years of age.

The results of such education as had been given were shown to be equally unsatisfactory.

In Manchester, in 1,916 families visited, there were, 1,660 persons between the ages of twelve and twenty. Of these, 759 were unable to read. Out of 1,672 fathers, 465 could not read, and out of 1,857 mothers, the number unable to read was 815.

In Birmingham, Mr. Long, one of the masters of the Worcester, Lichfield, and Hereford Diocesan Training College, visited a number of the manufactories (fairly chosen to represent the whole), and examined 988 young persons between the ages of thirteen and twenty-one. His report was that, 'in reading and writing nearly one-half of the whole number examined do nothing, or next to nothing, and only one-third do at all well. In arithmetic and general knowledge more than three-fourths fail, or nearly so; and only one in twenty shows anything like a satisfactory degree of attainment.'

The facts thus ascertained are corroborated by the statements of the Right Hon. H. A. Bruce, in a recent address, in which, quoting from a report of the London Diocesan Board of Education, he said there were in London from 150 thousand to 200 thousand children without the means of education, and that during the preceding five or six years all that had been done served only to prevent retrogression.

The report of the Committee of Council (1867-8, p. xxiii.) demonstrates the inefficiency of instruction even in the best primary schools—those under Government inspection. Of the children attending, a large proportion are declared to be unfit for examination; and of those examined above ten years of age, 'only 3·13 per cent. passed in the three higher standards without failure:' these standards being of an extremely elementary character.

These and other facts exhibiting the want of educational means and the defective quality of instruction actually given, naturally attracted special attention at the moment when, by an extension of the franchise, a great change had been made in the distribution of political power. Persons who took an interest in education were led to the enquiry whether the present voluntary system, based upon denominational effort, could by any possibility cover in the future, with increasing population and more urgent demands, the ground which it had failed to cover in the

past. Conceding to the voluntary principle the utmost conceivable measure of success, the advocates of education were further driven to enquire whether, considering the new conditions of political arrangements, and the rate at which education has hitherto progressed, it would be prudent to wait until the present system has received a longer trial. Educational reformers felt themselves compelled to ask yet another question; whether, considering the right of every child to education, it would be just to persevere in a system which, however benevolent its motive and however strenuous its exertions, experience has proved to reach only part of the children having the right to instruction, and to deal imperfectly with those whom it succeeded in reaching.

To all these questions only negative replies could be given. The advocates of extended education found themselves obliged to conclude that the voluntary system had failed to meet the wants of the country, that considering the new political conditions resulting from an extended franchise, it would be imprudent to persevere with a system admitted to be inadequate, and that considering the right of all children to instruction, a national system was demanded not less by justice than by expediency.

The result of these convictions was the introduction of a bill, promoted by an influential committee emanating from the Manchester Education Aid Society, permitting the imposition of local rates for the maintenance of schools. A permissive measure being, however, felt to be inadequate, a subsequent bill was introduced, allowing Government to compel the imposition of local educational rates where these might be found necessary. These bills were introduced by Mr. Bruce and Mr. Forster, and at the same time it was intended that Mr. (now Sir Thomas) Bazley should move clauses enforcing attendance at school.

The measures above mentioned mark the advance of public opinion. The formation of the National Education League indicates a still greater and more important progress. It was felt by several gentlemen in Birmingham that the time had come for the establishment of an organisation uniting all those, throughout the country, who desired to promote a really national system of education, reaching all places unprovided for, based as to means upon local taxation supplemented by imperial grants, becoming, therefore, unsectarian and free, and having the power to compel attendance as the only way of overcoming parental neglect.

Accordingly, at the beginning of this year, the National Education League was formed upon the following basis, and upon this basis only, which the founders regard as fundamental, were educational reformers throughout the country invited to join the League.

OBJECT:

*The establishment of a system which shall secure the Education of every child in England and Wales.**

MEANS:

1.—*Local authorities shall be compelled by law to see that sufficient school accommodation is provided for every child in their district.*

2.—*The cost of founding and maintaining such schools as may be required shall be provided out of local rates, supplemented by Government grants.*

3.—*All Schools aided by local rates shall be under the management of local authorities and subject to Government inspection.*

4.—*All schools aided by local rates shall be unsectarian.*

5.—*To all schools aided by local rates admission shall be free.*

6.—*School accommodation being provided, the State or the local authorities shall have power to compel the attendance of children of suitable age not otherwise receiving education.*

That this movement was happily timed, at the moment when opinion was ripe for it, is proved by the fact that although no public meeting has been held by the League, no means adopted but the circulation of the scheme recorded above, near two thousand five hundred persons of influence, including forty members of the House of Commons, and between three and four hundred ministers of religion, have already joined the League, by formally assenting to its principles; and this number is daily increasing.

It is now proposed to complete the working organisation of the League by electing a council and an executive committee, charged with the transaction of general business, the appointment of officers, and the formation of branch committees. The last-mentioned work has already been commenced. It was intended that it should have been deferred until after this meeting; but the response to the invitation of the provisional committee was so great that it was found necessary to form branch committees without delay, and branches have accordingly been constituted in London, Manchester, Bradford, Bristol, Leicester, Sheffield, Liverpool, Leeds, Huddersfield, Exeter, Bath, Warrington, Devonport, Carlisle, Merthyr Tydvil, Wednesbury, South Hants, and the Isle of Wight.

With reference to the funds necessary for carrying on the operations of the League, it was thought desirable to abstain from issuing an appeal until after the general meeting of members; but a number of gentlemen, having the work strongly at heart, have offered the sums undermentioned, payable by annual instalments extending over ten years:—

Mr. G. Dixon, M.P., Birmingham . . .	£1,000
Mr. A. Brogden, M.P., Ulverstone . . .	1,000
Mr. R. L. Chance, Birmingham . . .	1,000

* A slight verbal alteration was agreed to at a meeting of the Provisional Committee, held 22nd Sept., viz., that in all future circulars, addresses, &c., the words "*in the country*" should be substituted for the words "*in England and Wales.*"

Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham . . .	£1,000
Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Birmingham . .	1,000
Mr. G. B. Lloyd, Birmingham	1,000
Mr. A. Field, Birmingham	1,000
Mr. Follett Osler, F.R.S., Birmingham . .	1,000
Mr. W. Middlemore, Birmingham . . .	1,000
Mr. Archibald Kenrick, Birmingham . .	1,000
Mr. F. S. Bolton, Birmingham	1,000
Mr. Edmund Potter, M.P., Carlisle . . .	500
Mr. T. Kenrick, Birmingham	500
Mr. William Kenrick, Birmingham . . .	500
Mr. J. Arthur Kenrick, Birmingham . .	500
Mr. John Jaffray, Birmingham	500
Mr. Harold Lees, Manchester	400
Mr. William Dudley, Birmingham . . .	200
Mr. John Webster, Birmingham . . .	200
Mr. H. Swinglehurst, Milnthorpe . . .	110

As regards the general meeting of members, it is thought desirable that it should be held annually in different parts of the kingdom. It is proposed that the council, to be chosen at each annual meeting, shall be a consultative body, assembling at such intervals and in such places as may be required, and shall include all Members of Parliament who may join the League, large donors to the funds of the association, and at least one representative of each branch committee. A body so numerous, and consisting of persons so widely scattered, being obviously too large for the transaction of current business, it is proposed to appoint an executive committee, to whom, subject to resolutions of the annual meeting and the general revision of the council, shall be entrusted the conduct of the business of the League. This committee will meet at the central offices of the League in Birmingham.

The work of the League will be to collect and disseminate through its various branches, by means of meetings, publications, lectures, and otherwise, all available information on the subject of education; to stimulate discussion upon educational reforms; to create and guide public opinion; to influence Members of Parliament through their constituents; to hasten and strengthen the action of Government; and to promote the adoption by the Legislature of measures which shall ensure the education of every child in the country, and which shall provide instruction so accessible and so graduated that the child of the poorest artisan shall have it within his power to fit himself for any position capable of being attained by a citizen of the United Kingdom. To this work the members of the League have set themselves with a serious conviction of its vital importance, and under a sense of personal responsibility and public duty; and to this work they intend to remain constant until it is accomplished, and the reproach and curse of ignorance is wiped away from the land.

The Venerable Archdeacon Sandford moved, and Mr. George Dawson seconded the adoption of the report, and it was carried unanimously. The Officers, Council, and Executive Committee were then appointed; and Professor Fawcett, M.P., moved, that a Bill embodying the principles of the League be introduced into Parliament. This was seconded by Professor Thorold Rogers, supported by Mr. Lloyd Jones, and adopted. The following papers were then read:—"The Best System for National Schools, based upon Local Rates and Government Rates," by the chairman; on "Secular Education," by the Rev. J. E. Thorold Rogers; on "Local Educational Rating," by the Rev. A. Steinthal; and one on "Compulsion," by Mr. Pentecost.

The president announced that Mr. George Odger was unable to speak, as he had promised to do; but that he had sent the following resolution of the London Trades' Council:

This council is of opinion that the National Education League, whose object is the education of the people, upon national and unsectarian principles, is in every sense worthy of our support; therefore we appoint our secretary, Mr. George Odger, to attend the congress to be held in Birmingham; and we pledge ourselves to use our best endeavours in aid of so laudable a movement.

In the discussion which followed the reading of the papers, Mr. Simmons, of Merthyr Tydvil, Mr. Applegarth, of London, Mr. Edmund Potter, M.P., Mr. Green, chairman of the Birmingham Trades' Council, Sir C. Rawlinson, Sir W. Guise, and the Hon. Auberon Herbert, took part.

The members of the League were entertained by the Mayor in the Town Hall, in the evening, at a Soirée. There were upwards of 800 ladies and gentlemen present.

At the morning meeting of the Conference on the 13th, the chairman announced that Mr. Alderman Thomas Phillips had contributed £1,000 to the funds of the League. The following papers were read:—On "the Legislative Enforcement of Attendance, particularly in Rural Districts," by the Rev. Dr. Rowland Williams, Vicar of Broadchalke, Wilts; and one on "Compulsion," by Mr. Alderman Rumney, of

Manchester. A discussion followed, in which Mr. E. Potter, M.P., the Rev. C. Clarke, Professor Fawcett, Mr. Jesse Collings, Mr. Mundella, M.P., Lord Campbell and Stratheden, Mr. George Howell, Dr. Hodgson, Mr. Paget, Mr. Webster, Q.C., and Dr. J. A. Langford, took part.

In the afternoon sitting, papers were read:—On "Free Schools," by W. Alfred Field; on "Unsectarianism," by the Rev. F. Barham Zincke, Vicar of Whertstead, Suffolk, and Chaplin-in-Ordinary to the Queen; on "Secular Education," by the Hon. Auberon Herbert; on "Misconception as to Secular Instruction," by Mr. G. J. Holyoake; on "Denominational Schools," by Mr. H. J. Slack; and one on "Free and Compulsory Elementary Education," by Captain Maxse, R.N. A discussion followed, in which Mr. Edmund Beales, the Hon G. Brodrick, Mr. Follet Osler, the Revs. Septimus Hansard, H. W. Crosskey, and Mr. Caldecott, took part; and the conference terminated.

On the evening of the 13th, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall; the Mayor in the chair. Mr. Dixon moved—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the scheme of the National Education League is the one best adapted to secure the education of every child in the country.

This resolution was seconded by Professor Fawcett, supported by Mr. Mundella, and carried with only two dissentients. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain moved—

That the Executive Committee of the National Education League be requested to prepare a bill, based upon the principles of the League, for introduction into the House of Commons during the next session of Parliament.

This was seconded by Mr. Cremer, of London; supported by Mr. Carter, M.P., and Mr. Lloyd Jones, and passed unanimously. In acknowledging the vote of thanks, the Mayor, (Mr. H. Holland) said:—

Ladies and gentlemen.—When my term of office belongs to the things of the past, there is no event connected with it that will give me so much pleasure, as that the formation of the National Education League, and the great movement which has been inaugurated by it, took place during that term. Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you.

AMUSEMENTS.

BEFORE the Pantomime of 1860-61 was withdrawn, Mr. Atkins, one of the most popular of our local low comedians, took his farewell of the Birmingham play-goers. His benefit was on March 22, and the house was literally crammed with his friends and admirers. In addition to the Pantomime, he played in "Rural Felicity," and an "Unwarrantable Intrusion." At the close of the last-named piece, Mr. Atkins delivered the following valedictory address :—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—Although my engagement does not terminate until to-morrow evening, I thought this the most fitting opportunity of addressing a few words to you. It may be for the last time ; but indeed I hope not. It appears that, after spending the greater portion of my life in your service, the time has arrived when we must separate. That separation may or may not be final, but I should indeed be ungrateful were I to retire without acknowledging the many favours I have received at your hands. It is well known to the majority of the public in this town that when I first became attached to this establishment it was in a very humble position, and therefore it is a proud moment for me when I reflect that for several years I have held the most responsible situation in it. To say that that position has been gained by fortune or by a slice of good luck would be untrue ; it has been gained by sheer hard work on my part ; but all the energy I may have displayed would have failed had I not succeeded in securing your goodwill. At the outset of my career you were kind enough to notice any display of that ability I possessed ; you encouraged me as I progressed, and from that time I determined, by hard work in the theatre and straightforward conduct out of it, to prove myself not unworthy of your approval. The brilliant manner in which you have responded to my appeal to-night is a proof that I have not altogether failed in the object which I have all along had in view. I have enjoyed the society of many friends, and I have also enjoyed the pleasures of a comfortable home. You will naturally ask, why, with all these friends, are you about to leave us ? I for one, could not give you a very satisfactory reply to such a question ; but in justice to myself and in answer to some reports which I fear have been widely circulated I feel bound to state the simple facts of the case.

I wish it to be understood that I have not had the slightest quarrel or misunderstanding with Mr. Simpson nor with any member of his family. The last time we met we parted in the most friendly manner, and the first intimation I had of this separation was that my situation had been offered to a friend in London, and that I was to leave at Easter. I was naturally alarmed at this intelligence, and I lost no time in waiting upon Mr. Simpson, but he was too unwell to see me. I have since written to him on the subject, but have not received any reply. That an employer has a right to dispense with a servant when he chooses, will not admit of any argument, but whether such a summary dismissal after so many years hard work in his service is proper I leave you to judge for yourselves. But I have one great comfort in retiring, which is that I can say positively I never flinched from any duty that was imposed upon me; so far as I have had health and strength I have always been at my post. In making out the programmes of your nightly amusement I have never studied my labour, nor have I thought of my own interest; but I have sought invariably to put the most money in my employer's pocket. At the same time I must be permitted to say that I have to thank Mr. Simpson for the many kindnesses that he has bestowed upon me. Though this event has occurred in 1861, I am not likely to forget what has taken place in years passed away. When I came to this establishment I was unknown and comparatively friendless, and it was to Mr. Simpson that I looked on all occasions for advice and guidance, and he gave it to me in a friendly, kindly, aye, even in a fatherly manner. In thanking him, therefore, for this I am but doing an act of duty. I do not anticipate that anything I am now saying will reach him in his chamber of sickness, but I feel that what I have said is unfeigned. I think, moreover, that the playgoers of Birmingham are deeply indebted to the energy of Mr. Simpson for their entertainment, and for myself I thank him for all he has done for me, and for the kind advice he has given me during a career which has been without parallel in the history of a theatre. To my fellow-labourers both before the curtain, in the orchestra, and behind it, I beg to tender my sincere and grateful thanks. They have assisted me through many a difficult hour. I have seldom quarrelled or had a harsh word with any of them, and I have found that a kind word would do more than any assumption of petty tyranny. Ladies and gentlemen I have little more to say. As this may be the last opportunity I may have of expressing my feelings, as our immortal poet says:

"Life is but a walking shadow;
The poor player that frets and struts his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more;"

I beg that you will receive my grateful thanks for your kindness, and may you all enjoy that prosperity which this world affords, and happiness in the next, with which I now withdraw, and bid you "farewell."

This week was also rendered memorable in our theatrical annals by the magistrates granting a license for a new theatre in Birmingham. For sometime there had been an amphitheatre in Moor Street, and an application for a license to perform plays therein, made in 1860, had failed. This application was renewed on March 19, 1861, in behalf of Mr. John C. Chute, who had taken the building in Moor Street, at a rent of £475 per annum, and it was successful.

The Pantomime was not withdrawn from the Royal until March 23, when it was played for the last time. On April 1, Ruy Blas was produced for the first time with a strong company, and Mr. Edward Stirling for stage manager. On April 8, Mr. Walter Montgomery commenced an engagement in Othello.

Madlle. Titiens made her first appearance in Birmingham in a concert at the Town Hall, on April 18. She was supported by Madame Lemaine, Signors Gassier and Giuglini; Signor Andreoli was the pianist, and Signor Arditi conductor.

On April 22, Madame Celeste commenced an engagement at the Theatre Royal, and on the 24th the Drama of The House on the Bridge of Notre Dame was produced for the first time. The Colleen Bawn was produced for the first time on May 13, with a special company, Miss Cleveland sustaining the part of the heriono. This drama held the stage until June 22, when it was performed for the last time.

The Musical Festival this year was very successful. It was held on August 27, 28, 29, and 30, and the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot was president. On Tuesday morning *Elijah* was performed; on Wednesday *Samson;* on Thursday the never-failing *Messiah,* and on Friday, Beethoven's *Grand Service in D,* Hummel's *Motello,* and Handel's *Israel in Egypt.* On Wednesday evening, instead of the usual miscellaneous concert, Haydn's *Creation* was given; and on Friday evening Handel's *Judas Maccabeus* took the place of the Hall, which had hitherto occupied the last night of the Festival. The principal vocalists were Madlles.

Titiens, Adelina Patti, Miss Palmer, Mesdames Rudersdorff, Lemmens-Sherrington and Sainton-Dolby; Messrs. Sims Reeves, Montem Smith, Santley, and Signors Giuglini and Belletti. Miss Arabella Goddard presided at the piano-forte, Mr. Stimpson was organist, and Mr. Costa conductor. The total receipts were £11,453, of which £3,043, remained as profit for the Hospital.

The usual opera night followed the Festival, at the Theatre Royal, on August 31, when La Sonnambula, in two acts, and a selection from L'Elisir d'Amore were performed. The principal vocalists were Madlle. Adelina Patti, Mesdames Rudersdorff and Patriossi, Signors Tiberini, Luchesi and Ronconi. Mr. Alfred Mellon was the conductor. During the recess the theatre had been cleaned and redecorated, and a new act drop painted by Mr. C. S. James; and it had a very gay and pleasant appearance. The regular season opened on September 2, with the spectacular drama of Ivanhoe, or the Jew's Daughter.

The new theatre, in Moor Street, relied for some time on the sensational drama, and afforded the lovers of highly-spiced entertainments fine opportunities for gratifying their taste. A selection from the bills will show the nature of the performances:—Pauline, or the Children of the Night; A Poor Girl's Temptations; The Pirate of the Gulph; The Brigand's Son, or, the Oath of Vengeance; Midnight Phantom, or, the Angel of Death; Jack Vamp, or, the Tramp's Adventure; the Woman in White; The Solitary of the Heath; Nick of the Woods; The Robbers, or, the Outcasts of Siberia; The Merchant and the Mendicant; Cartouche, the French Jack Sheppard; and others of a similar elevating and exciting tendency. This kind of fare was, however, changed on September 9, when Mr. Atkins made his first appearance at this place of amusement, and performed in such pieces as Uncle Zachary, A Regular Fix, The Old Chimney Corner, and Domestic Economy. With his departure, however, Fraud and its Victims, and kindred dramas again took possession of the stage.

After the absence of nearly fourteen years, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean commenced an engagement at the Royal for ten nights on October 2, in The Wife's Secret. They also performed in Louis XI., The Merchant of Venice, Henry VIII., and The Wanderer.

Miss Glynn commenced an engagement on October 21, in The Winter's Tale; she also performed in Antony and Cleopatra, The Duchess of Malfi, and The School for Scandal.

Madlle. Adelina Patti sang in a concert at the Music Hall, on October 18, supported by Miss Fanny Huddart, Mr. Weiss, and Signor Le Calsi. On the 24th Madlle. Titiens and Signor Giuglini appeared in a concert in the Town Hall. They were accompanied by Madame Carradori and Signor Bossi. But the memorial event of the season was the farewell performances of Madame Grisi at the Theatre Royal. On October 31, she appeared in Norma, and on November 1, in Don Giovanni. This great singer announced her farewell in the following address:—

Having made my last appearance in London, I was determined to bring my professional career to a close by a final visit to the principal towns of Great Britain and Ireland.

In so doing, I believe I am acting consistently, and endeavouring to show how deeply I have treasured the welcome that for many years has been so lavishly bestowed upon me in this country.

There is something inexpressibly affecting to me in addressing the word "farewell" to an English audience; for that farewell is an adieu —and for ever—to the land of my adoption as an artiste; to the land in which have been created all my hopes; in which have been realised my brightest wishes. It is a farewell to a career which, by unexampled generosity and unparalleled kindness has far surpassed my expectations and exceeded my deserts.

To say *adieu*, therefore, to this country, inspires me with the deepest regret. That this regret is shared by the English public I venture to believe; for to think otherwise would be to do violence to a support that has never failed me—to a partiality on which I have had but too often to depend. It is this consciousness that mitigates the pain inseparable from such an occasion, and that will always be a source of pleasure to me in my retirement; enhancing the remembrance of those countless acts of favour for the thousands who have bestowed them will have the heartfelt gratitude of Guilia Grisi.

Mr. James Anderson began an engagement on November 4, in Hamlet, and during his stay played in Cloud and Sunshine, The Robbers, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Othello, and The Lady of Lyons.

Jenny Lind was to have paid us a visit this year, and sing at two concerts given in the Town Hall, on December 18 and 19. In consequence of the death of the Prince Consort, the concert was postponed until January 22 and 23, 1862. The engagement was made by the Committee of Management of the Birmingham Musical Festival. On the first night a miscellaneous concert was given, and on the second, Elijah. The principal vocalists, besides Madame Lind Goldschmidt, were Miss Palmer, Sims Reeves, Mr. Weiss, and Signor Belletti. Mr. Goldschmidt was the conductor, and Mr. Stimpson organist..

The Christmas Pantomimes were, at the Theatre Royal, Harlequin and the Sleeping Beauty; at the Moor Street Theatre, Cinderella.

Madlle. Parepa made her first appearance here at Mr. Stimpson's concert in the Town Hall, February 20, 1862.

Mr. Mark Lemon appeared at the Music Hall on February 25, and discoursed "About London and Westminster." The editor of *Punch* illustrated his subject with pictorial illustrations, and met with a cordial and hearty reception. He concluded his interesting subject in a second discourse on March 4.

The Pantomime at the Theatre Royal was played for the last time on March 26; and at the Moor Street Theatre on April 3.

Shakspere's Comedy of Errors was produced, for the first time in Birmingham for thirty years, on March 31, the two Dromios being played by the brothers Henry and Charles Webb. Madame Celeste commenced a short engagement on April 21, in the never-failing Green Bushes.

On April 28, Mr. James Bennett made his first appearance at the Moor Street Theatre, in Hamlet.

Mr. G. V. Brooke, "assisted" by Mr. Younge and Miss Avonia Jones, commenced an engagement at the Royal, on May 12, in Othello; on the 13th Medea was produced, Miss Jones representing the revengeful heroine.

A theatrical license was granted for the Music Hall, Broad Street, on May 13, on the understanding that only such entertainments as those given by Mr. and Mrs. German Read, and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul, would be produced.

Mr. Boucicault's drama, The Octoroon, was produced for the first time in Birmingham, at the Theatre Royal, on June 9, and was performed until July 5. The Christy Minstrels appearing on the 7th.

The autumn season began on September 15, with Mr. James Anderson in Macbeth. Mr. Brough's extravaganza Conrad and Medora was produced for the first time.

Madlle. Adelina Patti appeared at a concert at the Town Hall, on October 2, she was supported by Mr. Swift, Signor Ciampi, Herr Laub and Herr Jace. Herr Maurice Strakosch was conductor.

On October 13, Messrs. Henry and Charles Webb again appeared in The Comedy of Errors. Mr. Falconer's famous drama, The Peep o' Day, was produced for the first time, on November 17.

Madlle. Titiens made her farewell appearance previous to her departure for America, at Mr. Harrison's Concert, in the Town Hall, on October 24. She was supported by Madlle. Louise Michal, Signors Giuglini, Bossi, Badiali, and Herr Formes. Signor Arditi was the conductor.

On October 17, Mr. Day obtained a license for his new Music Hall in Smallbrook Street, and he opened on the 18th, with a performance for the Queen's Hospital, which realized £70 for the funds of that charity.

The recently licensed theatre in Broad Street, was taken by Mr. James Scott, lessee of the Belfast Theatre, for dramatic representations, and opened on October 15. It was not, however successful; and on November 24, it was opened as the Royal Music Hall Operetta House, for the performance of

vaudivelles, comediettas, burlettas, operettas and burlesques. Mr. W. H. Swanborough, of the Royal Strand Theatre, London, was the lessee and manager. The first company included Miss Julia St. George, Mr. John Brougham, Miss Helen Howard, Miss Eleanor Bufton, Mr. Edmund Gordon, Miss Isabel Adams, Mr. E. Clifton and Miss Lillie Lonsdale; and the pieces played were Mr. Brougham's Playing with Fire, and Blanche's burlesque of The Invisible Prince.

Miss Amy Sedgwick made her first appearance in Birmingham on December 19, as *Madame de Fontanges* in Plot and Passion, and *The Marchioness* in The Dowager, for the benefit of Mr. C. Humphreys.

The Christmas Pantomimes this year were, at the Theatre Royal, Harlequin and Puss in Boots; at the Broad Street Theatre, it was Jack the Giant Killer, or Harlequin King Arthur and ye Knights of ye Round Table, written by Mr. H. J. Byron; and at the New Theatre, Moor Street, Sinbad the Sailor. The latter was withdrawn as early as January 17, and on the 19th, another pantomime, Harlequin Lalla Rookh was produced. At the operetta house, Broad Street, Jack the Giant Killer was played for the last time, on February 21; and at the Royal, Puss in Boots reigned until February 28.

In commemoration of the wedding of the Prince of Wales, on March 10, the theatre in Broad Street was named the Prince of Wales' Operetta House.

We have nothing to record further until April 6, at which date Mr. C. Mathews appeared at the Prince of Wales' Theatre; and the popular author, Mr. H. J. Byron made his first appearance at the same house, in his own burlesque, of Ali Baba, or the Thirty-nine Thieves.

At the Royal, on April 13, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean commenced an engagement in The Wife's Secret.

Mr. Sothern made his first appearance in Birmingham at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, on May 4, in his admirable and unique representation of Lord Dundreary, in the comedy of Our American Cousin.

Mr. F. Robson commenced an engagement at the Royal, on July 6; and on the 14th, Madame Ristori appeared in her magnificent character of Medea. The Haymarket company began a six nights' engagement on July 20, and appeared during the week in She Stoops to Conquer, London Assurance, The School for Scandal, The Serious Family, The Rivals; and on the 25th played Tom Taylor's drama of The Contested Election, for the first time in Birmingham.

The autumn season at the Royal opened on September 14, when a drama written expressly for this theatre by Mr. R. E. Phillips, entitled The Dead Guest, or the Old Bridge of the Island of St. Louis, was produced. This drama was composed for the purpose of introducing Professor Pepper's patent ghost. Miss Juliet Desborough made her first appearance in Birmingham on this occasion; and the company introduced the following ladies and gentlemen new to the town:—Miss Ada Coates, Mrs. Clifford Cooper, Miss Lizzie Wilmore, Miss Marian Taylor, and Messrs. G. K. Maskell, Ernest Siddons, E. Price, J. L. Cathcart, and W. Elleston.

The Prince of Wales' Theatre opened for the season on October 12, with the comedy of London Assurance, and on the 26th, Miss Amy Sedgwick appeared as Hester Grazebrook, in Tom Taylor's comedy, The Unequal Match. Mr. Buckstone commenced an engagement on November 2, and Miss Ada Swanborough on the 9th.

At the Royal, Miss Glynn commenced an engagement on November 2, supported by Mr. Swinbourne. Antony and Cleopatra, The Duchess of Malfi, the Winter's Tale, Othello, and Macbeth, were produced during this engagement. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wigan appeared on November 16, and in addition to other dramas, performed during their stay, the Countess of Lifford's new comedy of Finesse, or the Spy and Counter-Spy, was played for the first time.

The Christmas Pantomime at the Royal this year was The Queen of Hearts and her Wonderful Tarts; and at the Prince of Wales, The House that Jack Built, or Harlequin

Old Mother Hubbard and her Wonderful Dog. The latter was played up to February 20, its attractions having been supplemented by the engagement of Mr. Walter Montgomery and Mr. Henry Vandenhoff. These actors were succeeded by an English Opera Company, under the direction of Mr. E. Rosenthal, which included Madame Haigh Dyer, and Messrs. Parkinson and Distin. They made their first appearance on February 22. On the 14th of March, Mr. and Mrs. Hermann Vezin commenced an engagement, when Westland Marston's new comedy of Donna Diana was played for the first time in Birmingham.

At the Theatre Royal, the pantomime was played for the last time on March 19, and on the 28th, was produced The Poor of Birmingham.

Mr. Byron's new burlesque of Orpheus and Eurydice was produced at the Prince of Wales' Theatre on March 28. At the opening of the autumn season, on August 8, the Lyceum company, including Messrs. J. Brougham, H. Widdicomb, J. G. Shore, S. Emery, Mesdames Ada Dyas and Adelaide Bowering, opened with Brougham's new romantic drama, The Golden Dream.

The Triennial Musical Festival was held this year on the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th of September. Two new works, the oratorio *Naaman*, by Costa, and a cantata, *Kenilworth*, by A. S. Sullivan were composed expressly for this meeting. The principal vocalists were Madlles. Titiens, Adelina Patti, Miss Palmer, Mesdames Lemmens-Sherrington and Rudersdorff; Messrs. Sims Reeves, W. H. Cummings, Santley, Weiss and Signor Mario. Madame Arabella Goddard presided at the piano, Mr. Sainton was solo violinist, Mr. Stimpson organist, and, as usual, M. Costa was the conductor. On Tuesday morning Mendelssohn's *St. Paul* was performed; on Wednesday Costa's *Naaman*, on Thursday the never-failing *Messiah*, and on Friday Beethoven's *Mount of Olives*, Mozart's *Service in G*, and Handel's *Solomon*. Sullivan's *Kenilworth* was performed on Thursday evening, and on Friday evening, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. The Right Honour-

able the Earl of Lichfield was president, and the total receipts were £13,777, of which £5,256 were added to the funds of the Hospital.

The Italian opera, generally given at the Theatre Royal on the Saturday of the Festival week, was not given this year; and, in consequence of an agreement with the Hospital committee, that long-established custom is now discontinued. The Theatre, however, opened on September 10, with a good company, when Faust and Marguerite was performed, followed by the burlesque of Kenilworth.

Miss Bateman appeared on October 10, for the first time here, in her great character of Leah, which she played during the twelve nights of her engagement. It was a triumphant success.

On the 13th, 14th and 15th, Mr. Sothern appeared at the Prince of Wales' Theatre. He was supported by Miss Edith Stuart.

October 24 will long be remembered by local play-goers. On that night Mr. J. L. Toole made his first appearance in Birmingham and played in The Pretty Horsebreaker, Ici on Parle Français, and Oliver Twist. He performed in a large number of pieces, dramas and farces, and in those parts which he has made peculiarly his own—Caleb Plummer, in the Cricket on the Hearth, and Stephen Digges. From the first, Mr. Toole's great powers were enthusiastically recognised, and every visit made since has only seemed to increase the heartiness of the welcome with which he was at first received. His old friend, Paul Bedford, accompained Mr. Toole on this his first engagement at Birmingham.

On November 9, Madlles. Titiens, Grossi, and Sinico, Signors Bossi, and Gardoni sang at a concert in the Town Hall, at which Mr. Charles Halle played on the pianoforte.

Madame Grisi had made more than one farewell to the public. Her pathetic adieus have already appeared in these pages; but the famous *cantatrice* could not tear herself away from the dearly-prized applause of her admirers. On November 10, she again appeared at the Town Hall, and sang

Qui la Voce, the Minstrel Boy, and the Last Rose of Summer; Signor Mario accompanied her, and sang Com é Gentil, and Good bye, Sweetheart.

The Christmas Pantomimes this year were: at the Royal, Old King Cole, or Harlequin Hey Diddle Diddle, the Cat and the Fiddle, and Four-and-Twenty Blackbirds Baked in a Pie; and at the Prince of Wales', Beauty and the Beast, or, Harlequin Lion King, the Page, the Pumkin, and the Prestidigitateur.

The pantomime at the Royal was withdrawn on February 25, and on the 27th, The Orange Girl was produced for the first time in Birmingham. On March 27, Mr. Creswick commenced a twelve nights' engagement in the play of Hamlet.

The pantomime at the Prince of Wales' Theatre was not withdrawn till the end of March, after having had a run for more than twelve weeks. On April 17, commenced a series of English operas, which extended to May 6. The company included Madame Parepa, Miss Thirlwall, Madame Fanny Huddart, Mrs. Aynsley Cook, Madlle. Linas Martorelle, Messrs. Charles Adams, Charles Lyall, Henry Haigh, Alberto Lawrence, Aynsley Cook, Dussek, Haydn Corri, Arthur and Henry Corri; and the following operas were performed:— Faust, The Mock Doctor, Trovatore, Somnambula, The Bohemian Girl, Dinorah, Lucrezia Borgia, Helvellyn, and Norma. Miss Ada Isaacs Menkin made her first appearance in Birmingham at this theatre, in Mazeppa, on May 15th.

On June 19th, at the Theatre Royal, Mr. E. Falconer appeared, and produced his original drama of Night and Morn. On July 3rd, Mr. Charles Mathews commenced an engagement in A Game of Speculation, and Cool as a Cucumber. During his stay he produced the new play of Faces in the Fire. Mr. J. L. Toole commenced his second engagement on August 21; he was supported by Mr. and Mrs. Billington, and introduced the new drama, Through Fire and Water, for the first time in Birmingham, on September 4. Mr. Creswick commenced an engagement

in Hamlet. The Tempest was produced on the 6th with more than usual care and completeness. On the same evening, the company of the Royal Strand Theatre, London, commenced an engagement at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, in the grand opera burlesque of Windsor Castle. On September 6, Mr. Fechter made his first appearance in Birmingham in Ruy Blas, on the 11th he gave his famous representation of Hamlet. He was supported by Mr. Ryder and Miss Carlotta Leclercq.

Miss Bateman appeared at the Theatre Royal in Leah, on September 25; and she played the same character for fifteen nights.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wigan appeared at the Prince of Wales' Theatre on October 9, and on the same evening Mr. Jackson Haines, the "champion skater" performed his graceful evolutions on the same stage.

Arrah-na-Pogue, or, The Wicklow Wedding, was produced at the Royal on October 16th, Mr. J. O. Sullivan and Miss Milly Palmer sustaining the hero and heroine.

Miss Avonia Jones introduced East Lynne to a Birmingham audience at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, on October 23, and on the 30th Charles Reade's Never too Late to Mend was produced with scenic accessories of a local colouring. A series of Promenade Concerts under the direction of M. Jullien, son of *the* Jullien, was commenced on November 27; the company included Madlle. Liebhart, M. Rosenthall, Herr Goffie, with Madlle. Madeline Schiller as pianiste.

The Christmas Pantomimes this year were: at the Theatre Royal, Sinbád the Sailor, or The Red Dwarf, The Terrible Ogre, and The Old Man of the Sea; at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Little Bo-Peep, or, Harlequin Queen Butterfly's Ball, and King Grasshopper's Feast in Birmingham in the Olden Time.

The pantomime at the Prince of Wales' Theatre ran till the end of February. Its attractions had been supplemented for some time by the appearance of Miss Menkin, who

played in The French Spy, and William, in Black-eyed Susan. Success however, did not follow in her train, and on February 23rd, the performances were brought to a close by the announcement that there was an "execution" in the house. At this time Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Holt were engaged, and on the night of the catastrophe were to have appeared in Richelieu. By an arrangement with the creditors the Theatre was afterwards opened under the direction of Mr. John Lauri; and on March 5, Mr. John King, the "Coxswain of the drowned crew of the steamship 'London,' which foundered in the Bay of Biscay, at 2 p.m. during the terrible storm on the 11th of January, 1866, (carrying down in the waves, with 269 others, the admired actor, Mr. G. V. Brooke)" was introduced to the audience.

At the Theatre Royal the pantomime was performed for the last time on March 17, and on the 19th Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews commenced an engagement, during which they performed in a round of their favourite characters. On April 2, The Jewess was produced with extraordinary splendour and scenic effects, a stud of horses having been engaged for the procession.

On the same evening the unfortunate Prince of Wales' Theatre was re-opened under the unfortunate management of Mrs. Macready; a lady who struggled bravely with difficulties which she was not able to overcome.

At the Royal, Miss Helen Faucit appeared on April 25, as Rosalind in As You Like It, and on the 27th as Iolanthe in King Rene's Daughter, and Katherine in Taming the Shrew. On May 4, Mr. Henry Neil Warner made his first appearance in Birmingham, in Othello, for the benefit of Mr. L. J. Sefton, the acting manager, who performed Iago.

On May 10, Mr. Charles Dickens read his Doctor Marigold, and The Trial from Pickwick, in the Town Hall.

The Hon. Mrs. Theresa Yelverton paid a visit to Birmingham this year, and on June 19 and 21 gave a series of readings from the Poets, in the Exchange Assembly Room.

Miss Siddons (now Mrs. Scott Siddons) the great-granddaughter of Mrs. Siddons, made her first appearance in Birmingham, at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, in Juliet, on July 16.

At the Royal, on July 23, Mr. Phelps commenced a short engagement in Sir Pertinax Macsycophant. On the 30th the Drury Lane Company, including Messrs. Walter Montgomery, H. Lorraine, James Bennett, Master Percy Roselle, Miss Atkinson, and Miss Fanny Addison, commenced a series of Shakesperian representations, of which the most noteworthy was King John. On August 6, The Golden Dustman was played for the first time here. The theatre opened with a new company on September 1, when Mr. Robertson's Society was performed for the first time. On the 24th, Mr. Sothern made his first appearance at this theatre, and introduced, for the first time in Birmingham, Dr. Westland Martin's pleasant comedy of The Favourite of Fortune. He also played in David Garrick, Brother Sam, and Lord Dundreary.

On September the 7th, the sheriff's officers once more took possession of the Prince of Wales' Theatre, when a very serious fracas occurred between the "minions of the law" and the company.

The young Georgian negro, known as "Blind Tom," made his first appearance in Birmingham, on September 17, and went through his extraordinary performance on the piano.

The accomplished and graceful actress, Mdlle. Beatrice made her first appearance in this town on October 1, in Pauline in The Lady of Lyons. She also played Desdemona; Mrs. Haller, Lady Teazle, and on the 4th she introduced Mr. Palgrave Simpson's two-act drama, Broken Ties, which owed all its success to the exquisite acting of Mdlle. Beatrice.

Mr. J. L. Toole commenced an engagement at the Royal on October 8, in Through Fire and Water, and Oliver Twist. He was supported on this visit by Mrs. Billington. On October 22, Mr. Sothern re-appeared in redemption of a promise made on the last night of his previous engagement, and introduced Tom Taylor's Comedy, A Lesson for Life, for

the first time to the public. He also played in a new farce, Dundreary a Father. Rip Van Winkle was performed on November 12, with Mr. Charles Rice for Rip.

A change in the fortune of the Prince of Wales' Theatre took place this year. Mr. James Rodgers became its proprietor, and on November 26, it was opened under his able management for a short opera season, with Loveday's English Company, with Madame Haigh Dyer as principal soprano.

Mr. Buckstone and the Haymarket Company began a seven nights' engagement on December 7, and performed Tom Taylor's play of The Overland Route. On the 24th Mr. Sothern appeared for one night only, and performed Claude Melnotte in The Lady of Lyons, for the benefit of Mr. J. C. Smith, stage manager.

The Christmas Pantomimes this year were: at the Theatre Royal, Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp; and at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Lalla Rookh, or Harlequin, the Princess, the Troubadour, and the Peri of the Silver Grotto.

Mr. Charles Dickens read his Christmas Carol, and The Boy at Mugby, in the Town Hall, on February 13, 1867.

The Pantomime at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, was played for the last time on February 15, and on the 18th Mr. W. H. Swanborough appeared in his own petite comedy, In the Wrong Box. Miss Amy Sedgwick, supported by Mr. John Nelson, commenced an engagement on the 25th in The Lady of Lyons.

On March 6, a dramatic and musical entertainment was given at the Town Hall, for the benefit of the fatherless children of the late Mr. Henry Webb. Miss Amy Sedgwick, Messrs. W. Creswick, J. L. Toole, W. Glydon, Joseph Eldred, John Nelson, D. F. Ffrench Davis, Bickley, and others gave their gratuitous services on the occasion.

Mr. Robertson's drama of Shadow Tree Shaft was performed for the first time here, at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, on March 11.

At the Theatre Royal the Pantomime was not withdrawn until March 16, and on the 18th Mr. J. Anderson com-

menced an engagement in Macbeth, supported by Messrs. Basil Potter, Walter Everett, Ersser Jones, and Miss Juliet Desborough. Mr. Sothern appeared on April 8, 9, and 10, playing in David Garrick, A Regular Fix, The Lady of Lyons, and Dundreary Married.

The benefit for the Webb Fund took place on April 15, on which occasion Messrs. J. Nelson, C. Webb, Elliot Galer, J. D. Stoyle, J. O'Sullivan, Miss Fanny Reeves, Madame Beatrice, and Mr. Sothern, the Company and the Band of the Theatre Royal, gave their services. On the 20th Mr. J. L. Toole appeared for one night only, when he played in The Weavers, The Steeple Chase, and Oliver Twist. The Birmingham Amateur Dramatic Association gave a performance on May 2, in aid of the funds of the Queen's Hospital, playing Mr. C. Williams' new drama, La Debutante, and Used Up.

At the Prince of Wales' Theatre on the 20th of April, The Wild Flower of Mexico, or the Sea of Ice, was produced, Miss Katherine Rogers playing Louise de Lascours and Orgatia; and Mr. Burnand's burlesque, Ixion, with Miss Marian Taylor as Ixion.

Mr. J. L. Toole appeared on May 27, in Paul Pry and Caleb Plummer. Mrs. Alfred Mellon accompanied him on this visit, making her first re-appearance on the stage since the death of her husband. On June 10, a new company under the direction of Mr. Allerton opened the theatre with Hamlet.

At the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Mr. Strange's Alhambra Palace Company appeared with "The Flying Farinis," father and son; Mr. Levy, the cornet soloist, and the Distin Musical Union, appeared on the same night. On June 24, was given the first of a series of twelve nights of English Opera, under the management of Madame Florence Lancia. The series opened with Faust.

A special performance was given at the Theatre Royal on July 15, for the benefit of Mr. John Barton, "as a mark of sympathy to that deserving and time-honoured ornament of

the Birmingham stage, under recent heavy afflictions." A large and influential committee of friends was formed, and Mr. J. L. Toole and Mrs. Alfred Mellon generously gave their services, as did all the members of the company. The pieces performed were Through Fire and Water, The Weavers, and Good for Nothing. Mr. Barton was present and returned his thanks to the public, the performers, and his private friends for the sympathy they had shown him in his affliction.

The Triennial Musical Festival was celebrated this year on the 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th of August. The Right Hon. the Earl Beauchamp was president, and the principal vocalists were, Mdlle. Titiens, Christine Nilsson, Mesdames Lemmens-Sherrington, Sainton-Dolby, and Patey-Whytock; Messrs. Sims Reeves, W. H. Cummings, Santley, and Weiss. Madame Arabella Goddard presided at the piano, Mr. Stimpson at the organ, Mr. Sainton was solo violinist, and the conductor was Mr. Costa. On Tuesday morning Mendelssohn's *Elijah* was performed; on Wednesday, W. S. Bennett's sacred cantata, *The Woman of Samaria*, composed expressly for this festival, and Handel's *Judas Maccabeus;* on Thursday, the *Messiah;* on Friday, Gounod's *Messe Solennelle* (in G) and Handel's *Israel in Egypt.* Handel's *Alexander's Feast*, was performed on Tuesday evening; on Wednesday, *The Legend of St. Cecilia*, by Benedict; on Thursday, J. F. Bennett's cantata, *The Ancient Mariner*, composed expressly for the festival; and on Friday, Mendelssohn's *St. Paul.* The total receipts were £14,397 11s. 11d., adding £5,541 4s. 2d. to the funds of the hospital.

The theatre opened for the autumn season on August 31, when the T. P. Cooke Prize Drama, True to the Core, was produced for the first time, Mr. T. Swinbourne representing Martin Truegold.

The season at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, commenced on September 2, with The Flying Scud for the first time. Mr. Atkins playing Nat Gosling, and Miss Charlotte Saunders, Bob Buckskin.

On September 30, Mr. Sothern commenced an engagement in Our American Cousin; and on October 5, performed for the first time here, in that very foolish drama, A Wild Goose. On October 14, Mdlle. Beatrice commenced an engagement in Romeo and Juliet. Miss Bateman began another series of representations of Leah on the 21st of October, which she repeated until the end of her engagement on November 1st.

Mr. Clarance Holt, Miss Holt, and Miss Montague, appeared at the Prince of Wales' Theatre on October 21, in a new drama adopted by Mr. Holt, from Mr. Victor Hugo's Les Miserables, entitled Out of Evil Cometh Good.

On November 4, Mr. Halliday's drama of The Great City, was produced at the Theatre Royal, but was not successful; and on the 11th, Mr. J. Clarke opened an engagement in T. Robertson's Caste, which was performed for the first time in Birmingham.

Mr. Hermann Vezin appeared at the Prince of Wales' Theatre on November 25, and for the first time in Birmingham gave his masterly representation of James Hairbell, in the Man o' Airlie.

On November 30, Miss Menkin appeared for the first time at the Theatre Royal, in her old part, Mazeppa.

At the Prince of Wales' Theatre the drama of Never too Late to Mend, and The Colleen Bawn had successful runs, principally owing to the admirable performance of Mrs. James Rogers; and on December 9, Madame Haigh Dyer, with an English Opera Company, began a series of performances in The Bohemian Girl.

Mr. J. L. Toole appeared at the Theatre Royal for one night only, on December 14, playing in Paul Pry, Dinorah under Difficulties, and Oliver Twist; he was supported by Mr. J. Eldred. Mr. Sothern, assisted by Messrs. J. T. Raymond, L. J. Sefton, and Miss Madge Robertson, appeared for two nights only, on December 23 and 24, and performed Mr. E. Falconer's new drama, A Wife well Won, before submitting it to the judgment of a London audience.

The Christmas Pantomimes this year, were, at the Theatre Royal, Robinson Crusoe, and at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Cinderella.

The Imperial Japanese Company made their *debut* in England, at Curzon Hall, on December 26.

The attractions of Cinderella at the Prince of Wales' Theatre were increased on the 24th of February, 1868, by the appearance of Mr. Neil Warner in Love's Sacrifice, Mrs. Rodgers performing Margaret Elmore.

Mr. Vernon Rigby appeared at the Theatre Royal, on March 28, in Guy Mannering, and the Pantomime was played for the last time on April 2. On April 9, the School for Scandal was played by some of the members of the Birmingham Amateur Dramatic Association, with Mr. Sothern as Charles Surface, and Miss Madge Robertson as Lady Teazle, for the benefit of the Shakspere Memorial Library; A Thumping Legacy concluded the performance, which was histrionically a great success. Offenbach's Grand Duchess was produced on April 13, the caste included Mrs. Howard Paul, Miss Augusta Thompson, Messrs. Harrison, Frank Matthews, Rosenthal, Odell, and J. D. Stoyle.

Mrs. Scott Siddons commenced an engagement at the Prince of Wales' Theatre on April 27, and Madame Celeste on May 4.

On May 4, Nobody's Child was performed for the first time at the Theatre Royal. On the 23rd, Mr. Phelps commenced a seven nights' engagement in The Man of the World.

An amateur performance was given at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, on May 29, by the members of the Rifle Corps and their friends, for the benefit of the Prize fund. The pieces played were Sheridan's Rivals, and The Critic.

No Thoroughfare was produced at the Theatre Royal, on June 1, Mr. S. Emery performing Obenreizer.

The autumn season at the Prince of Wales' Theatre commenced on August 22, with a series of Shaksperian revivals. The first play was Romeo and Juliet, Mrs. James Rodgers representing the heroine. On the 28th, Mr. John Ryder

made his first appearance as Jacques in As You Like It, Mrs. Rodgers playing Rosalind.

The Theatre Royal opened for the season on August 31, during the recess the house had been completely re-decorated and improved. A new stage had been provided. The first performance was Hamlet, with Mr. T. C. King as the Prince, supported by a new company. On September 14, Mr. Sothern began a six nights' engagement, and introduced his new play, A Hero of Romance. He also appeared in David Garrick, and The Favourite of Fortune. Mr. John S. Clarke made his first appearance on the 21st, as Major Wellington de Boots, and on the 28th, Miss Bateman again appeared in Leah. On October 5, she played Lady Macbeth, and on the 9th, Bianca, in Fazio; with these two exceptions the whole of the engagement was filled up with Leah. On the 12th, Foul Play was produced for the first time. Mr. Sothern and Miss Ada Cavendish began another short engagement on November 2.

At the Prince of Wales' Theatre Miss Neilson appeared, on October 26, as Juliet, and on November 2, she played Millicent, in Mr. C. Williams's drama of that name. This play was, as already stated, first produced at the Amateur Dramatic Association with the title of The Two Dukes. It was repeated on the 3rd, and 4th, and 7th.

Mr. Charles Mathews appeared at the Royal, on November 9, and on the 11th he introduced Tom Taylor's new play, The Contested Election.

The English Opera Company began a twelve nights' engagement at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, on November 9, with The Bohemian Girl, Madame Haigh-Dyer and Mr. Haigh were the principal vocalists. This Company paid a return visit on the 30th.

Mr. J. L. Toole commenced an engagement at the Theatre Royal, on November 21, in Caleb Plummer, All at Sea, and Oliver Twist. He was accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Billington and Mr. Joseph Eldred. On the 23rd Mr. Byron's new drama, Dearer than Life, was produced. Mr. Shiel Barry,

the Irish Comedian, made his first appearance on the 30th of November.

Mdlle. Beatrice commenced an engagement at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, on December 7, in Mary Stuart, and A Cup of Tea, and on the 12th she performed for the first time in Birmingham, the new drama written for her by W. Palgrave Simpson, entitled Marie Antoinette.

The Christmas Pantomimes this year were, at the Theatre Royal, Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves; at the Prince of Wales', Babes in the Wood, or, Harlequin Robin Hood and the Brave Little Soldiers of Lilliput.

Mr. Mark Lemon gave his first representation of Falstaff, in Birmingham, at the Exchange Assembly Rooms, on February 4, 1869. He was supported by Messrs. Herbert Crellin, W. L. Branscombe, Harry Lemon, W. B. Clarke, Master Couran, and Miss Rose Garland. The entertainment consisted of the Scenes in Henry IV., in which the Prince of Wales, Falstaff, and their boon companions principally appear. The performance was repeated on the 5th.

During the run of the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, The Tempest, compressed into three acts, was produced on February 13, Mr. James Bennett performing Prospero, Miss Cicely Nott, Ariel, and Miss Juliet Desborough, Miranda. The pantomime was withdrawn on March 13, and on the 15th, Herr Bandmann made his first appearance here in Narcisse; he was accompanied by Miss Milly Palmer. During this engagement Herr Bandmann delighted all lovers of the Shaksperian drama by his masterly performances of Hamlet and Othello.

The pantomime at the Prince of Wales' Theatre was played for the last time on March 20, and on the 27th Mr. H. J. Byron, supported by an excellent company, began the representation of a series of his own dramas, with The Lancashire Lass. The other plays produced were, April 9, Cyril's Success, and on the 16th, Blow for Blow.

At the Theatre Royal on March 29, Mr. Boucicault's sensational drama, After Dark, and Mr. W. Brough's bur-

lesque, The Field of the Cloth of Gold, were produced for the first time.

Mr. Charles Dickens paid us another visit in April, and gave two readings from his works, in the Town Hall. On the 1st, he read Boots at the Holly Tree Inn, Sikes and Nancy, from Oliver Twist, and Mr. Bob Sawyer's Party, from Pickwick. On the 2nd, Nicholas Nickleby at Mr. Squeers's School, and The Trial from Pickwick. This was announced as his final and farewell reading in Birmingham.

Mdlle. Beatrice commenced an engagement at the Prince of Wales' Theatre on April 26, in Marie Antoinette, she was accompanied by Mr. James Fernandez.

The Grand Duchess was reproduced at the Theatre Royal, on April 26, with Miss Julia Mathews as the heroine. The company consisted of Mdlle. Albertazzi, Messrs. J. D. Stoyle, Anysley Cooke, W. H. Norton, Odell, Fred. Payne, and Wilfred Morgan. Mr. F. Younge's company appeared on May 10 in Mr. Robertson's Caste. Besides Mr. Younge it included Messrs. Craven, J. W. Ray, G. Canninge, Fortune, Mrs. E. Dyas, Miss Ada Dyas, and Miss Brunton. They remained for twelve nights, but did not perform in any drama but Caste. Mr. J. L. Toole, supported by Mr. Henry Irving and Mr. Lionel Brough, appeared on May 27, 28, and 29, and performed the following pieces:—The Weavers, Ici on Parle Français, Oliver Twist, Dearer than Life, and the Steeplechase. Mr. Toole and Mr. Irving appeared again on June 5, in Caleb Plummer, Robert Macaire, and Ici on Parle Français.

Mr. F. Maccabe commenced a series of six performances of his entertainment, "Begone Dull Care," at the Theatre Royal, on June 14.

At the Prince of Wales' Theatre, on June 14, Mr. Fecther and Miss Carlotta Leclercq, with a "carefully selected company," commenced a series of performances by playing, for the first time here, Black and White. On July 19, Mr. Allerton and Miss Kate Saville commenced a series of performances with the new play, entitled Forbidden Fruit.

The season at the Prince of Wales' Theatre commenced on August 21, under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Davis, with Time and the Hour, and The Peep Show Man.

The Theatre Royal season was opened on August 30, with The Grand Duchess. On September 13, Mr. Joseph Irving commenced a short engagement in The Omnibus, and on the 15th he produced his burlesque of East Lynne, of which the only part worth notice was his own admirable performance of the heroine. Mr. Sothern began a six nights' engagement on the 20th of September, in David Garrick, and A Regular Fix. On the 21st and 22nd, he played in Mr. Robertson's new play of Home, and on the 23rd he produced Mr. H. J. Bryon's new play of Sir Simon Simple, Bart., in Not Such a Fool as he Looks. This was the first time it was performed on any stage. Mr. Sothern was assisted by Mr. W. Blakeley, Miss Lilly Harris and Miss Edith Bertram.

On September 27, Mr. B. Webster, accompanied by Mrs. Alfred Mellon and Mr. R. Phillips, opened an engagement in The Dead Heart.

Mr. Mark Lemon and his company appeared in the scenes from Henry IV., on September 30 and October 1 and 2.

The Haymarket Company commenced a five nights' engagement on October 18, with The School for Scandal, and High Life below Stairs. They also performed in The Rivals, Rural Felicity, The Twelfth Night, Speed the Plough, The Hypocrite, Lend me Five Shillings, How to make Home Happy, and Babes in the Wood.

Three nights' were devoted to Italian Opera, on November 4, 5 and 6. The operas performed were respectively Il Trovatore, Lucia di Lammermoor and Don Giovanni; and the company consisted of Mdlles. Titiens, Sinico, Vanzini, Scalchi, Bauermeister, Cori, and Ilma Di Murska, Signors Della Rocca, Marino, Mongini, Cotogni, Antonucci, Zoboli, Campi, Herr Formes, and Messrs. Lyall and Santley. Signor Arditi was the musical director and conductor.

Mr. Charles Mathews began a five nights' engagement on November 8, in The Bachelor of Arts, If I had 1000 a Year,

and Cool as a Cucumber; on the 9th he played in The Lion. Mr. J. L. Toole commenced an engagement on November 20, in Dearer than Life.

At the Prince of Wales' Theatre, on November 22, Mr. Swanborough's London Company began a series of performances with Kind to a Fault, and the burlesque, The Pilgrim of Love. On the 29th Mr. Robertson's Dreams was produced.

On November 16 and 17, under the title of The Nilson Festival, two Concerts were given at the Town Hall. On the first night, Selections from the *Creation* and a miscellaneous selection formed the programme; and on the second selections from the *Messiah*, and a selection. The singers were Mdlle. C. Nilson, Madame Drasdil, Mr. Sims Reeves, Signor Foli, and Mr. J. M. Wehli.

Mr. Boucicault's disreputable drama, Formosa, was produced at the Theatre Royal for the first time on November 29; we rejoice to add that it was not successful here, and was withdrawn after twelve performances.

An amateur performance was given at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, on December 10, for the benefit of the Working-men's Fund for the Extension of the Queen's Hospital.

The Christmas Pantomimes this year were, at the Theatre Royal, Blue Beard, at the Prince of Wales', Little Red Riding Hood.

BIRMINGHAM AND THE ADULTERATION ACTS.

EARLY in 1854 a question of great importance to the trade of the country, and affecting all classes of the community, had its rise in Birmingham. It was originated by Mr. John Postgate, F.R.C.S., Lecturer on Anatomy at Sydenham College, and Professor of Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology at Queen's College, to whose ceaseless labours and unselfish zeal its success is chiefly due. For several years his attention had been directed to the shameful adulteration of food, drugs, &c., by which the health of the people was imperilled, and evils of a very serious nature produced. On the 7th of January, 1854, he wrote a public letter to Mr. W. Scholefield, one of the Members for the Borough, suggesting the appointment of public analyists by local authorities for the detection of the adulteration of food, drugs, &c., and that these trade frauds should be brought within the jurisdiction of the magistracy. He asked for Mr. Scholefield's co-operation in the matter, and proposed that he should apply for a short general Act of Parliament for the Prevention of Adulteration. Mr. Postgate concluded by stating that he should bring the subject before the public. To this letter Mr. Scholefield sent the following reply:—

The Square,
9th January, 1854.

Sir,

I have just received your note of the 7th instant. The evil of adulteration in articles of food is a great, and, I am afraid, a growing one, and any one who can point out an adequate remedy for it will confer an important benefit on the community, and especially on the poorer classes. I am glad, therefore, to see that the subject occupies your attention, and shall be pleased if I can so co-operate with you as to lead to a practical check to the frauds now so common. Your suggestion of a public analyser, whose duties, under the conditions you name, shall be analogous to those of the inspectors of weights and measures, inspectors of

meat, &c., appears to me the best I have seen. The main difficulty would be to draw up a legal definition which would fit the numberless forms of adulteration in the same article, and would apply to the many different articles liable to adulteration. The difficulty, however, is not, perhaps, insurmountable, and ought not to be pronounced so till we have tried our best. As regards legislation, a general measure would be preferable to a merely local one. But the plan is, at present, too much in the nature of an experiment to justify a belief that Parliament would at once sanction more than such partial legislation as that of a clause in our local bill. You do quite rightly in determining to bring the question before the public. I hope the best results from an open discussion of its merits.

And am, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
WILLIAM SCHOLEFIELD.

John Postgate, Esq.,
41, Frederick Street.

Mr. Scholefield took a warm interest in the subject, and corresponded with Mr. Postgate on the best means of dealing with it, until his lamented death, in 1867. On January 23, 1854, a paragraph was published in *Aris's Gazette*, stating that Mr. Postgate had called on the mayor (Mr. J. Palmer), to get his proposal carried out by the insertion of a clause in the Borough Improvement Bill. The Town Council, however, took no action in the matter.

On the 23rd of January, 1854, another letter was written by Mr. Postgate to Mr. Scholefield, detailing the duties of the public analyst, which, with Mr. Scholefield's answer, was published in *Aris's Gazette*, of January the 30th, 1854. We transcribe this correspondence.

41, Frederick Street,
January 23rd, 1854.

Sir,

I am pleased you approve of my proposals for the suppression of adulterations, and beg heartily to thank you for the offer of co-operation to procure a practical check, contained in your note of the 9th instant. Perhaps I had better state the plan a little more in detail. 1.—The appointment of a Public Analyst should rest with the Town Council. His duties to be to purchase, or caused to be purchased without notice, at any shop, articles of food, groceries, drugs, &c., for examination and

analysis, and report in case of adulteration to the magistrates, who shall have—secondly, a discretionary power of inflicting a fine after hearing the evidence of the public analyser. No legal definition or Act of Parliament could secure an article from adulteration long, for as soon as a substance was found to be mixed with an article and declared to be adulterated and illegal, another would be substituted for it, so great and prolific is the ingenuity of fraud in these matters. The decision of adulteration, however defined, must rest with the public analyser who ought to be thoroughly and practically acquainted with the qualities, physical and chemical, of the substances he examines and analyses. It may be objected that the powers conferred on the public analyst are great; but the checks to abuse of power are also great. First he is appointed by, and responsible to, the Town Council—the latter body to the community, so that in case of wrong decision an enquiry is always open, and, moreover, the infliction of a fine by the magistrates will prevent any undue influence being exerted to render the appointment nugatory. Many collateral advantages would result from appointment of such an officer. It would be a direct encouragement to science, and in a complicated enquiry before the Coroner's Court, the practical experience resulting from these examinations would be invaluable.

I remain, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
JOHN POSTGATE.
Lecturer on Anatomy at Sydenham College.

Wm. Scholefield, Esq., M.P.

P.S.—I am glad to inform you the mayor and those gentlemen of the Town Council I have had an opportunity of mentioning the subject to, approve of the plan.

London Reform Club,
January 25, 1854.

Sir,

I am much obliged by your further note on the subject of a public analyser. I should be glad to see your plan publicly discussed, if you could interest the newspapers in the subject The great point in all such schemes is to learn what are the objections. The advantages are self evident.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
WILLIAM SCHOLEFIELD.

John Postgate, Esq.,
41, Frederick Street, Birmingham.

Mr. Scholefield having fairly taken the matter up, and agreed to do the Parliamentary work for Mr. Postgate, the latter determined to obtain all the support possible for the Member. He called on Mr. Spooner, late M.P. for North Warwickshire, to obtain his aid when the measure was introduced into the House of Commons. He tested articles of food and drugs, purchased in the town, in the presence of that gentleman, pointing out the adulterations in them, and succeeded in obtaining Mr. Spooner's promise to support Mr. Scholefield in Parliament. He also communicated with Mr. G. F. Muntz, M.P., Mr. Scholefield's colleague in the representation of Birmingham. He directed, in his appeal to Mr. Muntz, that honourable member's attention to the letter he had addressed to Mr. Scholefield, and he asked him to give his aid and influence when the matter was brought before the House of Commons. Further, Mr. Postgate related instances of adulteration which had produced baneful results. Mr. Muntz forwarded the following reply:—

2, St. James's Square, London,
February 16, 1854.

Dear Sir,

I received in due course your letter of the 13th instant, and have since conversed with Mr. Scholefield upon the subject of it. Agreeing with you as to the evil of the adulteration of food, I am at present at a loss to see how any law will prevent it without being an interference with trade which would not be submitted to. I will, however, assist my colleague as far as I reasonably can.

Yours faithfully,
G. F. Muntz.

John Postgate, Esq.

This called forth another letter from Mr. Postgate, explaining his proposals for the suppression of adulteration. First, he suggested the appointment of Government officers, as parties to prevent the admission of adulterated articles of food, and also of drugs, excepting of a given strength and purity; and secondly, the appointment of public analysers, by Town Councils in large towns, and by county magistrates in their several districts. Having described the duties of

these officers, he further proposed that a discretionary power should be given to the magistracy of inflicting a fine after hearing the evidence. Unquestionably, the appointment of public analysts would interfere with the dishonest trader by restraining the sale of adulterated articles; but he was certain that Mr. Muntz, of Birmingham, was the last man to be concerned on that account. No injustice could be done to the honest tradesman, as no adulterated substance would be imported; and as, moreover, he could obtain the opinion of the public analyser on the reception of a suspicious article from the wholesale dealer, it would be a positive advantage and protection to him, and was, he was glad to say, regarded in that light by several men in business, who justly complained of the unfair competition of their fraudulent neighbours. They had already ale and flesh "conners," and why not public analysts to prevent the consumption of adulterated food, &c.

Mr. Postgate also informed Mr. Muntz that a Conference on adulteration would be held in Birmingham on the 20th April, 1854, at which his propositions would be discussed. *The Birmingham Mercury*, *Aris's Gazette*, and *The Midland Counties Herald*, vigorously supported the question, and the following article appeared in *Aris's Gazette* and was copied into *The Times* and other London papers of March 21st, 1854.

Adulteration of Food.—We are informed that it is intended in a short time to hold a conference of medical and scientific men in this town, to consider the systematic and alarming adulteration of food and articles of general consumption. At this meeting, we understand, several practical resolutions will be submitted, and, among others, recommendations that proper Government officers be stationed at the various ports to prevent the introduction of adulterated articles, and that public analysers be appointed by Town Councils and Quarter Sessions, and power given to magistrates to inflict fines on their evidence. Mr. Postgate, who has for a considerable period been engaged in investigations on this important subject, has received from Mr. G. F. Muntz, M.P., an intimation that should the question be brought before Parliament he will cordially assist his honourable colleague, Mr. Scholefield, in endeavouring to obtain the contemplated objects.

Mr. Postgate, fully convinced by the investigation he had made of the very extensive prevalence of adulteration in the trades of the country, and feeling persuaded Parliament would not legislate efficiently unless compelled by public opinion, suggested to Mr. Scholefield that he should move for a free open public parliamentary enquiry into the whole matter, prior to introducing a bill embodying Mr. Postgate's suggestions; Mr. Scholefield, however, thought at this time he could proceed by a bill introduced into the House of Commons. The conference on the subject was held April 20, 1854, Mr. Scholefield in the chair; and the following resolutions were passed:—

1.—This conference, convinced of the extent of adulterations in articles of food, drugs, &c., and believing the evil to be increasing, is of opinion that legislative interference is imperatively called for to protect the public, and especially the poor, from fraud.

2.—That by the advanced state of chemical science, aided by the microscope, those adulterations may be readily and unerringly detected and exposed.

3.—The following propositions having been submitted to the consideration of this conference by John Postgate, Esq., Lecturer on Anatomy at Sydenham College, Birmingham:—

That examiners, properly qualified, be appointed by Government and stationed at the ports, to prevent the importation of all adulterated articles, and also of drugs, except of stated strength and purity;

That public analysers be appointed by Town Councils for cities and large towns, by county magistrates for the smaller places and districts, to examine and analyse suspected articles;

That power be given to the magistracy of inflicting fines, after hearing the evidence of the public analysers;

County Courts to adjudicate in those cases where adulterated articles are sold by the wholesale dealer or manufacturer to the retail tradesman, allowing for loss sustained by the latter, and costs of analysis, and inflicting a fine not exceeding £50;

Resolved—

4.—That the appointment of the officers recommended above would effectually curb these dishonest practices, by checking the sale of adulterated articles, promote the public health, protect the honest tradesman, and be a great boon to all classes of the community.

5.—That W. Scholefield, Esq., M.P., be requested to bring the question before the House of Commons, by moving for a committee of enquiry, or otherwise, as he may think advisable; and that G. F. Muntz, Esq., M.P., be respectfully requested to lend his valuable co-operation.

6.—That the best thanks of this conference be presented to John Postgate, Esq., for having called public attention to the important question of adulteration, and for his able and zealous services in devising a method of prevention.

7.—That the thanks of this conference be presented to the local and general Press for furthering the movement; and also to the editor of the *Lancet*, for his able exposure of this monstrous abuse.

After the Conference Mr. Scholefield still proposed to proceed by bill in the House of Commons, notwithstanding Mr. Postgate's suggestions of a preliminary enquiry into the whole subject of adulteration, thus placing the question on a firm basis. Mr. Scholefield having intimated again his opinion that a practical measure was advisable as a first step in Parliament, Mr. Postgate made further suggestions to Mr. Scholefield, including the following:—

1.—That the salary of the public analyser should be fixed and adequate, and in no way dependent upon the prosecutions. 2.—That all fines under the proposed bill should go into the borough fund or county cess, according to circumstances. By this he apprehended that no opposition of local bodies, who sometimes looked more to economy than to public utility, could be entertained. 3.—Whether in certain cases—that was, after repeated convictions—a power of inspection should not exist, to be specially enforced by the magistrates, to protect the poor man. 4.—The seller to be responsible for the purity of his commodities; but where adulterated articles are proved by him to have been received from the wholesale dealer, a second summons might, on his application, be issued, and the real offender punished through him. He thought a power of this sort, thus easily applied, would be a great advantage to the small retailer, and remove any reasonable objection he might have against the measure. Compensation for loss in purchasing between men of business was another matter, and a private affair. 5.—Akin to adulteration was the shameful substitution, in the dispensing of prescriptions, of one drug for another, and even the omission of the principal preparations altogether, and repeatedly in preparing the same medicine, an instance of which occurred to a medical friend, whose patient derived not the slightest benefit from his medicine, and the druggist, though paid the charge, fraudulently left out the most important article. Perhaps no clause could be added to a bill to meet such a case as this without altering its character, though he was certain Mr. Scholefield would agree with him that it was a crime of an exceedingly bad character; and so far as he knew there was no remedy in this country for inaccuracy in dispensing prescriptions. Mr. Scholefield replied

acknowledging the suggestions, which he thought would prove valuable; and in reference to some fears expressed by Mr. Postgate, with regard to Mr. Scholefield's seat for Birmingham, which he deemed only right to mention to Mr. Scholefield, said:—"As for offending constituents, I must bear the brunt of that; and as to the expense, the outlay wont be much, I expect." There never had been any subscription whatever for the expenses of the agitation, and the cost of Mr. Postgate's journeys throughout the country, and the meetings held had been borne by himself, with the single exception of the town's meeting held in Birmingham. Mr. Scholefield eventually came round to the opinion of Mr. Postgate, and proposed to give the requisite notice (28th July, 1854), that early in the next session he would move for a Select Committee of Inquiry.

The Select Committee of Enquiry into the adulterations of food, drinks, and drugs was moved for by Mr. Scholefield, and appointed on his motion on the 26th of June, 1855. It sat during two sessions under his chairmanship, and examined a great many witnesses—scientific analysts, medical men, and traders—entering thoroughly into the question. The committee consisted of the following honourable members:—Mr. Scholefield, Mr. Charles Villiers, Lord Claude Hamilton, Viscount Goderich, Mr. Knight, Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Peacock, Viscount Ebrington, Mr. Alderman Cubitt, Mr. Kinnaird, Mr. Otway, Mr. Swift, Mr. Gregson, Mr. Wise, and Mr. Moffatt. This committee presented three reports to the House, the final one on the 22nd of July, 1856.

In the meantime Mr. Postgate was endeavouring to create a public feeling and a public opinion out of doors, by communicating with Cabinet Ministers, members of Parliament, scientific persons, medical men, mayors of cities and towns, influential members of the press, and public bodies, in different parts of the United Kingdom. He caused meetings to be held in many of the large cities and towns, and visited several of those places himself. He tested articles of food and drugs purchased in various places. Among the towns thus visited were Leeds, Lincoln, Wolverhampton, Bradford, Scarborough, Dudley, Bridlington, and Wakefield. Previously to the meetings, circulars were sent requesting the purchase of articles, which were publicly tested side by side with

genuine commodities; Mr. Postgate pointing out the adulterations when detected in them. Resolutions, affirming the necessity of stringent legislation, were passed at all those meetings. Six public meetings were held in Birmingham. Two of these were large public meetings, called by the Mayors of the town. At one of these, held on the 28th of January, 1859, in the Town Hall, presided over by Sir John Ratcliff, after Mr. Postgate had delivered an address on the general question, and tested several articles of food and drugs purchased in the town, many of which were found to be extensively adulterated, the following resolution was moved by Mr. Philip Harris, seconded by Dr. Melson, and supported by Mr. W. Scholefield, chairman of the late Parliamentary Committee on the Adulteration of Food:—

That this meeting is of opinion that the practice of adulteration in this country demands the enactment of a stringent law for the detection and suppression of adulteration, requires the appointment of a public analyst by the municipality and other local authorities, as originally suggested by Mr. John Postgate, and adopted by the Parliamentary Committee on the Adulteration of Food; that these officers should examine and analyse articles of food and drugs submitted to them by the public and traders, and proceed against all parties perpetrating adulteration injurious to health.

The final report of the Parliamentary Committee of Enquiry of the 22nd July, 1856, stated that adulteration widely prevailed, some foreign products being adulterated abroad, others by the English dealer, other commodities, the produce of this country, were shown to be adulterated when passing into the hands of the dealers, while others undergo adulteration by the dealers themselves. "Not only is the public health thus exposed to danger and pecuniary fraud committed on the whole community, but the public morality is tainted, and the high commercial character of this country seriously lowered both at home and in the eyes of foreign countries." The committee gave a long and appalling list of articles commonly adulterated, which included all the necessaries of life and the drugs used in the treatment and cure of diseases. They also stated that the intoxication so deplorably prevalent

in the country, is, in many cases, less due to the natural properties of the drinks themselves than to the admixture of narcotics or other noxious substances intended to supply the properties lost by dilution. The report adopted Mr. Postgate's ideas of a remedy of action by municipal and other local authorities, the appointment of analysts by them, summary jurisdiction by the magistracy on evidence adduced, and punishment by fine or imprisonment. Mr. Postgate was the only witness called from Birmingham by this committee of enquiry. He was examined three times, and on the third examination he gave in a detailed scheme for the suppression of adulteration and trade frauds, from which the committee drew their recommendations to Parliament.—*Vide 3rd Report Par. Enquiry, page* 278. The evidence given before this committee was widely circulated throughout the Empire, and it created a great impression on the public mind; but it was not until nearly a year elapsed after the presentation of the report that a bill was introduced to remedy the evil.

Mr. Postgate also got up a Town's Meeting on requisition to the Mayor, T. R. T. Hodgson, Esq., which was held in the Town Hall, the 29th of February, 1856. Mr. A. Ryland, Deputy-Mayor, presided. After Mr. Postgate had explained the objects of the meeting, Mr. J. S. Wright moved—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the evidence given before the Committee of the House of Commons appointed to enquire into the adulteration of food, drugs, &c., established the fact that such adulterations exist to an alarming extent." Dr. Melson seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The Rev. J. B. Marsden moved—"That this meeting records its solemn protest against a system injurious alike to public health and morals, to the interests of fair-dealing and upright traders, and to the commercial character of this country; and that, inasmuch as the means hitherto adopted to suppress the evil have proved ineffectual, this meeting is of opinion that competent persons should be appointed to protect the public against such frauds." Mr. George Dawson seconded the motion.

Mr. T. P. Salt moved the adoption of the following petition to the House of Commons, to be forwarded to W. Scholefield, Esq., M.P., for presentation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Norman, and carried unanimously:—

The humble petition of the inhabitants of Birmingham, in town's meeting assembled,

Sheweth,—That your petitioners are assured that the adulteration of articles of food and medicine is carried on to an alarming extent throughout the kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. That such a system seriously affects the health and physical condition of her Majesty's subjects generally, and that the means hitherto employed have failed to repress the evil. That it is of the greatest importance to the moral well-being of the trading classes of this great community that a system so subversive of the first principles of honesty, and so seriously involving the character of the people, should, if possible, be put an end to. That your petitioners humbly implore your honourable House to take the subject into your serious consideration, and to provide some remedy whereby the evils complained of may be effectually removed. And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.

On the motion of Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. S. Tonks, copies of the resolutions were ordered to be forwarded to Viscount Palmerston and the Home Secretary.

At Mr. Postgate's request, nine bills have been introduced into the House of Commons by the members for Birmingham on this question. The first bill was brought in by Mr. William Scholefield after the presentation of the report of the committee of enquiry. It was read a first time on the 25th of June, 1857; it punished adulteration by fine and imprisonment; it was a compulsory measure, and created a staff of officers to carry out its provisions; it applied only to articles of food and drink, but did not include drugs. It made adulteration a crime punishable by six months imprisonment with hard labour; it created immense opposition; the lobby of the House of Commons was crowded with traders, and the bill had to be withdrawn before it reached a second reading. After this attempt no further action was taken in Parliament till the 22nd of February, 1859, when Mr. Scholefield introduced another bill into the House of Commons. This bill was a very weak one, intended appa-

rently to get in the thin end of the wedge. It was a permissive measure, and did not extend to Scotland and Ireland; it gave power to local authorities to appoint public analysts, and to give a purchaser the power to have anything analysed, in a district where a public analyst was appointed, for 2s. 6d. or not more than 10s. 6d., and there was power to obtain an opinion from the Privy Council. There was a mere penalty on the seller if he sold anything which to his knowledge contained any material or ingredient calculated to injure the health of persons eating or drinking such article, or if he exposed for sale, as pure and unadulterated, what to his knowledge was adulterated and not pure. The bill was amended in committee on the 25th July, 1859, but did not pass that session. It was reintroduced as amended on the 3rd of April, 1860, and was made to apply to Scotland and Ireland. It was only a permissive measure, weak and tentative, but, such as it was, it received the Royal assent, and became law. As soon as it was passed, Mr. Postgate wrote to the then Mayor of Birmingham, Mr. Thomas Lloyd, urging its adoption. The matter was referred to the borough inspection committee, who soon after advertised for a public analyst. The Act was permissive, and likely to fail because the authorities would not put it in force; but Mr. Postgate determined to get all he possibly could out of it, and made suggestions, in a public letter to the authorities, showing how the Act could be made useful to the public. Analysts were appointed in the city of London, in the Metropolitan districts, in Dublin, Sheffield, and other places. A meeting was got up in Birmingham to call upon the local authorities to take action, and was presided over by Mr. Alderman Manton, then the Mayor. A resolution was passed to the following effect:—

That in the opinion of this meeting, the Corporation should appoint inspectors, to procure samples of food and drugs to submit to the analyst for the borough, and to initiate proceedings before the magistrates.

It should also be stated that Mr. Postgate made an effort to get the Adulteration Act of 1860 rendered efficient by the

House of Lords. He communicated with the Earl of Shaftsbury, who had charge of the bill, enclosing two clauses which he had drawn up, making adulteration an offence and punishing the conniver or the orderer of adulteration; but they could not be adopted without risking the rejection of the whole measure. It may be added they form part of the Adulteration Act, 1872.

The subject of legislation against adulteration was twice brought under the notice of the National Association for the promotion of Social Science, by Mr. Postgate. His first paper was read at the inauguration of the Society, in 1857, at Birmingham, in the Public Health Section, presided over by Lord Stanley, and is published in the Transactions, in *extenso*, page 483, for 1857.

His second paper was read before the same section at the meeting held in Birmingham in 1868.* After the reading of the last paper the following resolution, in support of the movement, was adopted :—"That the council of the Association be requested to continue their efforts to promote more efficient legislation on the subject of the adulteration of food." A vigorous effort was made by Mr. Postgate to get the Adulteration Act, 1860, adopted and enforced by local authorities, without much success—in fact, attempts were made to abolish the office of analyst in Birmingham annually—fortunately without result, so that the next step Mr. Postgate took was to obtain the enactment of a compulsory law, and not leave it optional to local bodies to appoint public analysts. He therefore suggested to Mr. Scholefield that he should introduce another bill to amend the Act of 1860 and include drugs. Mr. Scholefield acquiesced. Mr. Postgate then drew up a bill to amend the Adulteration Act, 1860, and prevent the adulteration of drugs, and forwarded the same to him on the 10th of September, 1863, which Mr. Scholefield acknowledged on the next day. Owing to the state of Mr. Scholefield's health the bill made no progress, a matter of regret to Mr. Scholefield, who expressed himself strongly

* *Vide* Transactions of National Society for promotion of Social Science, 1868, page 508.

in its favour. In reply to questions which Mr. Postgate put to him on the hustings, at the last election when he was returned for Birmingham, he promised to introduce the bill in either the next or at least a very early session of Parliament. Mr. Postgate also asked Mr. Bright whether he would assist his colleague, Mr. Scholefield, in this matter. Mr. Bright promised that he would, as far as he could, when the bill was introduced into the House of Commons.

On the death of Mr. Scholefield, in April, 1867, Mr. Postgate called on Mr. George Dixon (who succeeded Mr. Scholefield in the representation of Birmingham) and induced that honourable gentleman to take charge of his bill, which was a compulsory measure, requiring local authorities to appoint analysts, making adulteration an offence punishable by fine and imprisonment, giving power to Government to look after local authorities, and using the present inspectors to procure samples, submit them to analysts, and initiate proceedings in detected adulterations against the adulterators and sellers of adulterated food and drugs, &c. Mr. Dixon brought in the bill the 9th of June, 1868, and it was read a first time. The principles of the bill being affirmed by its second reading on the 23rd of June.

During the recess Mr. George Dixon brought the matter, as President of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, under the notice of that body, in an able speech, on the 30th of July, 1868, which he circulated, with copies of the bill, among the Chambers of Commerce of the country. Mr. Postgate also continued his exposure of adulterations by testing articles purchased in different localities, and it may be observed that he had introduced the subject of detecting adulterations in food, drinks and drugs by chemical tests and microscopical examination in his lectures on toxicology at the Queen's College, reports of which were published in the Birmingham newspapers; moreover, meetings were held at Mr. Postgate's residence, in the Bristol Road, to which the Members in charge of the bill were invited, and at which purchased articles of food, drugs, &c., were tested. Thus the

matter was kept alive and public interest sustained by the publication of the reports by the daily and weekly press. Mr. Dixon introduced the bill again on the 13th of April, 1869, but was obliged to withdraw it on the 21st of July, in consequence of the hostile attitude of the Government. Mr. Dixon's time becoming fully occupied with his own special question of the education of the people, Mr. Philip Henry Muntz took charge of the bill. Mr. Dixon, however, did not retire entirely from the question, as he backed the bills introduced by Mr. Muntz with his name.

On Friday, the 17th of December, 1869, Mr. Postgate called on Mr. P. H. Muntz, at his office in Gt. Charles Street, and had a long conversation with that honourable gentleman on the subject of adulteration. He left with Mr. Muntz the bill he had prepared for Mr. Muntz's consideration, and in the course of a very few days had the gratification of receiving a communication from our energetic representative, that he would introduce the bill at the commencement of the next session of Parliament. Mr. Muntz brought the bill in on the 22nd of February, 1870, when it was read a first time, and the second reading fixed for the 9th of March. From a Parliamentary report in *The Times*, of March 10th, 1870, we extract the following:—

> The second reading of the Adulteration of Food and Drink Act (1860) Amendment Bill was moved by Mr. Muntz, but opposed by Mr. Bruce, on the ground that there was no time to discuss it. Mr. Muntz replied that the bill had been already discussed, and as it was well ascertained two-thirds of the poor were being robbed, and the other third poisoned by adulteration, he thought it was high time the measure was proceeded with. The adjournment of the debate was moved by Mr. Stapleton, and Mr. Alderman Lusk hoped the second reading would not be pressed, but before the question could be put the matter stood adjourned by lapse of time.

The debate was adjourned to the 16th of March, and on that day the adjourned discussion on the second reading was postponed till May 4. On May 4th it was further adjourned to May 25th, when the order of the day for its second reading was discharged and the bill withdrawn. Mr. Postgate received the following communication from Mr. Muntz:—

House of Commons,
May 26, 1870.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD BILL.

Dear Sir,

I withdrew this bill last night, as there is no chance of its coming on again this session; next session we must begin earlier. My friends will support Lord Eustace Cecil on his motion next Friday, and I hope that I may then have a chance of speaking plain English and shewing up the fallacy that "Free Trade" requires that people should not be prevented from poisoning and plundering wholesale.

Yours truly,
P. H. Muntz.

John Postgate, Esq.,
Birmingham.

In order that Mr. Muntz might see, before reintroducing the bill, the nature and extent of adulteration in food and drugs, Mr. Postgate invited the honourable member to his residence in the Bristol Road, on Tuesday, January 24th, 1871, and there made a series of experiments, in the presence of Mr. Muntz, in the analysation of various articles purchased in the town and district. The tests applied revealed extensive adulterations in many of the commodities, including sherry wine, which was found to be largely adulterated with sulphuric acid. Reports of the testing was published in Birmingham and London newspapers, with comments on the difficulties placed in the way of legislation on the question, and on the necessity and duty of early and stringent action by the Government and Parliament in the ensuing session of Parliament.

On the 16th of February, 1871, Mr. Muntz introduced the bill, reduced by the withdrawal of several clauses to make progress with the matter and get the bill passed a second time so as to have it amended in committee, but he had little hope of success, and said in his letter to Mr. Postgate, on the introduction of the measure, that he expected the bill would be backed out as usual.

On the 22nd of March the bill was read the second time, on the understanding that the discussion be taken on going into committee.

April 18th, when the bill was down for committee, and when Mr. Muntz had an amendment to perfect it, the House was counted out, at 10 p.m., on Mr. Bentick's motion.

May 23rd, the House went into Committee, *pro forma*, on the motion of Mr. Muntz, supported by Mr. Bruce, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, who said it was a useful measure, and increased the penalty for adulteration. Sir Charles Adderley moved an amendment:—"That the House should resolve itself into the said committee on this day six months." Mr. Cave also opposed the bill, the amendment, however, was negatived without division, and the House went into committee, but soon after progress was reported and the House resumed.

June 1st, the bill was withdrawn. "The order for committing the adulteration of food, drugs, &c., bill was read and discharged, and the bill withdrawn."—*The Times, June 2nd*, 1871.

Mr. Postgate received the following letter from Mr. Muntz.

The Reform Club,
2nd June, 1871.

Dear Sir,

I was compelled to retire the bill at one o'clock, it being opposed and no chance until July. We have, however, made progress, and shall have a fair chance next year. If you have still a copy of your *original* bill, I should be glad if you would let me have it next August, I have mislaid mine.

Yours truly,
P. H. Muntz.

John Postgate, Esq.,
59, Bristol Road, Birmingham.

In August, Mr. Postgate saw Mr. Muntz on the subject of introducing the bill again, and left with him a copy of his original bill, as desired. On the 3rd of February, 1872, Mr. Postgate held another meeting at his house, in the Bristol Road, to test commodities purchased in Birmingham and its district. He entered fully into the question, in its moral, commercial, and sanitary aspects. Numerous articles of food, drink, and drugs were examined and tested with the

usual results. Adulteration had in no degree diminished in consequence of previous exposure, and the necessity for a stringent law, well enforced, existed, just as it did at the commencement of the movement in 1854, at Birmingham.

On the 13th of February, 1872, Mr. Muntz reintroduced Mr. Postgate's original bill, with the addition of a clause incorporating the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and the Adulteration of Food or Drink Act, 1860. The bill was read a first time and ordered to be printed. The bill was read a second time, the 6th of March, on the motion of Mr. Muntz. Some of the clauses of the bill had, however, been incorporated in the Government Public Health Bill, and the further progress of the Adulteration Bill would be therefore rendered unnecessary provided that bill passed. Mr. Muntz asked the House to allow the bill to be read *pro forma* a second time, on the understanding that at the proper time, if the Government bill was passed, the order for the third reading would be discharged; the request was granted, and the bill was read a second time.

The Government having withdrawn the clauses dealing with adulteration in the Public Health Bill referred to, Mr. Muntz on the 3rd July, moved the bill into committee, and had got it half through when "Progress" was moved by a member who admitted *that he had never read the bill.* "This mysterious word," Mr. Muntz wrote "which means anything but progress stopped all proceedings, whether I shall have another chance is yet to be seen, but at this season of the year the prospects are not encouraging."

The following is an abstract of the proceedings in Parliament:—

July 9, Bill down again for committee. House counted out at 9 o'clock, just after it re-assembled. July 11, Bill passed through the Committee, at half-past 2 a.m., on the 12th, with amendments. July 15, Report considered at 2 a.m., on the 16th. July 22nd, Bill passed, being read a third time, at ten minutes to 2 a.m., Thursday morning, July 23rd. July 23rd, Bill brought into the House of Lords by Lord Salisbury. Read a first time and ordered to be printed. July 26, Bill read a second time. July 29, Bill passed through committee. July 30, Report of

amendments considered and agreed to. August 1, Bill read a third time, and passed in the House of Lords. August 3rd, on motion of Mr. Muntz, the Lords amendments were considered and agreed to by the House of Commons. House of Lords, August 6, The Commons amendements to the Bill were considered and agreed to. August 10th, the Royal assent was given to the Bill, and it became law. It is due to another honourable member of the House of Commons, Lord Eustace Cecil, to say that he rendered a great service to the question by his motions in the House, asking Government whether it was intended to provide an efficient remedy for the enormous evils of adulteration, and also in the part he took in backing up the bill and moving amendments to increase its stringency in committee. Mr. Postgate communicated with his lordship, the 25th April, 1870, asking him to support the bill introduced by Mr. Muntz. Lord Eustace Cecil thought no private member could carry a bill through the House of Commons without the aid of Government, and he continued to press the subject on the attention of Government, delivering in the House of Commons very able addresses on the question. Mr. Postgate corresponded with his lordship till the passing of the bill, in August, 1872. It should be mentioned too, that Lord Salisbury carried the bill rapidly and successfully through the House of Lords, availing himself of the suggestions of Lord Cecil to add in the Lords what could not be passed in the Commons.

At Mr. Postgate's solicitation and request a Parliamentary Enquiry into the whole matter was moved for, and five Bills, dealing with the question were introduced by the late Mr. William Scholefield. Mr. George Dixon introduced two Bills, and Mr. Philip Henry Muntz three Bills. During the whole of this period, from January 1854 to August 1872, Mr. Postgate corresponded with the three members for Birmingham who had charge of this question, supplying them with facts shewing the necessity for an effectual law and its rigid enforcement by local authorities acting under, in some measure, the advice of Government. Our worthy member, Mr. Muntz, took the matter up warmly, and by his skilful pilotage conducted it successfully through the House of Commons. With great tact he reduced the bill to get it into a safe port, and then with the help of Lord Cecil added more cargo when he had a better crew to face the storm.

Soon after the Act passed, Mr. Postgate wrote a letter, the 31st of August, 1872, to the President of the Local Government Board, urging that the Board should issue directions or recommendations to local authorities for the proper carrying out of the law; but the Board could not take action in the matter, except under Sec. 5 of the Act, in respect to the appointment and removal of analysts. Mr. Postgate's letter and the reply were published in *The Birmingham Morning News*, October 25th, 1872. Mr. Postgate however wrote a paper "On the Practical Application of the Adulteration Act, 1872," published in PUBLIC HEALTH, containing suggestions to analysts and local authorities, and pointing out what articles should be first brought under the new law.

The Act has been enforced in many parts of the country, and numerous convictions obtained under its sections. As might be expected, the parties fined are not very well satisfied, though they admit the Act is doing much good; they would be glad if it did not specially affect them in their transactions, and would shift the responsibility on traders in any or all parts of the world. A complaint was got up against the working of the Act, as regards the adulterated and poisonous tea, stated to be sold as imported from China. A committee of the House of Commons has been appointed to enquire into the operation of the Act, and is now taking evidence. It is presided over by Mr. Clare Read, Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board. It was moved for by Mr. Sclater-Booth, the President of the Local Government Board. Mr. P. H. Muntz is a prominent member of the committee.

Mr. Postgate, before the appointment of this committee, forwarded a letter to the President of the Local Government Board, in consequence of the complaints of tea dealers. It is dated April 7, 1874, and contained the following suggestions, which we extract from the *Pall Mall Gazette* of April 25th, 1874:—

THE ADULTERATION ACT.—Mr. Postgate, of Birmingham, as the author of the Adulteration Act, has addressed a letter to the Local Government Board, containing the following suggestions for amending

the Act: 1.—As regards imported commodities, any one who shall import or order the importation of adulterated food, drink, or drugs, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and be imprisoned for six months with hard labour. 2.—Before payment of duty on tea, wines, spirits, &c., Government shall require proof of the purity of the articles from the importers thereof, who shall produce certificates of analysis from samples taken from the articles in bond. Such analysis to be made by the public analyst under the Adulteration Act, 1872. 3.—Public analysts, before signing the certificates under the Act of 1872, may, in cases of doubt or difficulty respecting the analyses, have other analyses made by other public analysts, who shall, if verifying their analyses, sign the certificates and be required to give evidence at the hearing of the cases. 4.—The public analysts to be required by law to give evidence as to the matters certified in the certificates of analysis. 5.—A copy of the certificate of the analysis shall be left with the summons. 6.—Local authorities charged with execution of the Adulteration Act, 1872, shall be empowered to take proceedings against importers of adulterated food, drinks and drugs, under proposal 1. 7.—Manures and seeds to be examined and analysed by the public analyst under the Act of 1872 extended and the Adulteration of Seeds Act to be incorporated. 8.—Mixed cotton, woollen and silk goods to be declared as such at the sale thereof, under heavy penalty. 9.—Public analysts may examine and analyse articles of clothing, cotton, woollen, and silk goods for the fees payable under the Adulteration Act, 1872, and issue certificates of the results of the examination and analysis. 10.—The Board of Trade or the Local Government Board shall issue directions to local authorities for the carrying out of the Act, and state what constitutes adulteration in imported articles, and what may be regarded as a natural impurity in articles of vegetable origin imported. 11.—The Local Government Board may order an investigation of any difficult matter in the analysis of any article by referring the matter to three eminent analytical chemists appointed chemical referees to the Board. 12.—The result of the reference to be published for the information and guidance of the public analysts. It is desirable, also, to empower the magistracy to order an inspection of any manufactory known to be producing adulterated food, drinks, or drugs, for the seizure of all noxious, poisonous, &c., materials used in adulteration.

Mr. Clare Read acknowledged Mr. Postgate's letter on the 22nd of April, and expressed the thanks of the Board for the communication.

THE HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL.

In the Annual Report, presented to the subscribers August 1, 1848, will be found the following paragraph:—"When Homœopathy was first introduced into this town, in 1845, *only two gentlemen*, who will probably be members of the committee to be this day appointed, *and one family*, who removed about eighteen months ago from Birmingham, *could be found so far convinced of its truth as to aver their readiness to be treated by it in acute illnesses.*"

The establishment of this system in Birmingham is due to the zeal of the late Dr. Fearon. On his death, in 1860, the committee recorded in their minutes the fact, that, to "his exertions and continued labours, to his unselfishness and devotion of character, the Hospital and Dispensary mainly owe their origin, their progress and success." The first dispensary was opened in Great Charles Street, but in May, 1847, the more convenient premises which had been taken in the Old Square, were opened, and the success which followed was most encouraging to the friends of the institution. The medical officers, in their report, state that, on its establishment, "having no funds available for the purpose, we were obliged to take upon ourselves all the responsibility of the expenses attendant upon it; the accounts, however, will show that at the conclusion of this, our first, year, there remains to the credit of the dispensary upwards of £100, while the expenses for furniture and medicines have necessarily been considerably heavier than they may be expected to be in any subsequent one; and at the same time the average of the weekly receipts continues to exceed, by about two-thirds, that of the expenditure." According to the balance sheet, the total receipts from the 10th of May, 1847, to the 24th of June, 1848, were £412 11s. 6d., and the total expenditure, £310 16s. 11d.

At this date, the following gentlemen were committee and officers: Patron, E. J. Shirley, Esq., M.P.; Committee, the Revs. W. Gover and F. Watts, Messrs. Jefferys, Mason, C. Holliday, W. Harding, G. Taylor, R. Lee, and Mr. Butler; Medical Officers, Dr. Fearon, J. Lawrence, and Parsons; Secretary, Mr. G. Taylor; and Chemist, Mr. C. Corfield.

For some twelve years the institution continued to be a Dispensary; but, in the report for 1860, the committee announced that they had added a hospital department, which had been opened nine months. "The immediate cause," they say, "of steps being taken for the formation of a hospital, arose out of a legacy of £500 being left by the late E. J. Shirley, Esq., M.P., of Eatington Park, to the Trustees of a Homœopathic Hospital in Birmingham, should one be in existence at the time of his death; if not, in trust to Dr. Fearon, to be at his absolute disposal for any similar purpose he chose, without any limitation as to time or locality." On the payment of the legacy the recipient gave notice to the committee that "it would be held by him for one year, and if not then claimed for Birmingham, by the establishment of a hospital, he should dispose of it elsewhere." In the first nine months the number of patients admitted was twenty-three; and during the year 1859, no fewer than 17,138 prescriptions had been given to out-patients.

The charity has now changed its name, and has become the Birmingham Homœopathic Hospital and Dispensary. The trustees, in 1860, were Messrs. Edwin Bullock, R. L. Chance, jun., Henry Christian, A. Dixon, Josiah Mason, and Henry Van Wart; Dr. Gibbs Blake was also one of the medical officers.

The "two gentlemen" of 1845, found in a few years such a large addition in the number of fellow-believers in the Homœopathic treatment, that the building in the Old Square became altogether inadequate to afford accommodation for the ever-increasing demand. A new hospital had become absolutely necessary, and the committee set to work to supply the want. In the report for 1866, they state, "In conse-

quence of the munificient offers by Mr. Mason and Mr. R. L. Chance to contribute £1,000 each towards the erection of a new building, which were announced by the chairman at the last annual meeting, a sub-committee was formed to select a site and further the undertaking; but the disastrous monetary crisis, which almost immediately followed, made it impossible for them to hope to obtain assistance from the public during the past year, and they have judged it better to take no steps up to the present time to obtain donations. The committee are of opinion, however, that if the above-named gentlemen be willing to deposit in the bank the £2,000 which they have promised, to form the nucleus of a building fund, and to be applied exclusively to this purpose, together with all interest that may accrue, donations will flow in; and they suggest that they be requested to do so, and that a vigorous canvass be commenced as soon after as may be deemed expedient by the committee." The two generous supporters of Homœopathy readily acceded to the request of the committee, and the nucleus of a building fund was thus formed, which, on the 31st December, 1867, amounted to £2,440 5s. 2d. In this year the medical staff consisted of Mr. J. Lawrence, Consulting Surgeon; Dr. J. Gibbs Blake, Physician; H. Robertson and E. Wynne Thomas, Surgeons; F. J. Sims, Hon. Dentist, and Dr. G. A. Craig, House Surgeon.

In 1868, it was "decided to invest all legacies of £50 and upwards, unless the donor should express a wish to the contrary effect, and that the fund thus formed be called the 'Investment Fund,' of which the interest shall be applied to meet current expenses. Soon after this was done two legacies were announced, one of £50 from the late Miss Burton, and the other of £300 from the late Mr. Crowley."

A "Sale of Work" took place in 1869, by which £1,188 were realised. Of this amount £700 were apportioned to the Building Fund, £100 to the Investment Fund, and £340 to the Reserve Fund, to provide for current expenses. On May 24, 1869, the Birmingham Amateur Dramatic Association gave

a performance, at the Theatre Royal, for the benefit of the hospital, and realised a profit of £30 6s. 3d.

In 1873, the following special appeal for the building fund, signed on behalf of the committee, by R. L. Chance, chairman, was issued :—

Birmingham, 11, Old Square,
March, 1873.

Sir,

The committee of the Birmingham Homœopathic Hospital, after much enquiry and protracted effort, have now succeeded in obtaining, at a cost of £7,000, a most eligible freehold site in Easy Row. The extent of the land is nearly 1,200 square yards, the capabilities of which admit of the erection of a hospital, containing one hundred beds. The committee propose to commence with an accommodation for forty beds, the number at the present hospital being but twenty.

Public confidence in Homœopathy has grown so rapidly that applicants for in-door treatment are now constantly rejected for want of room, and it is difficult, with the very limited means at its disposal, for the present hospital to accommodate the large number of out-patients that daily apply for relief.

During the year 1872, 139 in-patients were treated at the hospital, 1,861 at their homes, and 17,063 as out-patients.

The committee earnestly, and with confidence, appeal to the public to assist them in their endeavours to extend the benefits of this charity, which is alleviating so large an amount of suffering and disease among the poor of this town ; and not only would they ask the help of those who themselves practise homœopathy, but would go much wider a-field, and appeal to the whole philanthropic public, whatever there own individual preference may be, to recognise in the Homœopathic Hospital, a charity, which is acknowledged on all hands to be dispensing as great an amount of relief in proportion to its means as any kindred institution in Birmingham.

On reference to the annual reports of the hospital a tabulated statement will be found, showing every description of disease there treated, with the result in each case.

This appeal has a two-fold object, viz. :—

(1) To raise a fund estimated at £12,000, of which about £6,000 is already obtained, for the purchase of the land and the erection of the new building, on a design somewhat after the style of the elevation heading this appeal ; and,

(2) To increase largely the list of annual subscriptions, say to £1,500 per annum.

Mr. R. L. Chance and Sir Josiah Mason, had increased their donations from £1,000 to £1,500 each, and the list appended to the above appeal included £500 from A. Albright, £250 each from J. E. Wilson and W. H. Avery, £150 from A. Dixon, £131 from J. H. Chance, £100 each from E. Bullock and Elkington & Co., £50 each from J. N. Hopkins, R. Martineau and R. F. Martineau, and a long list of subscribers of various amounts.

The new hospital was designed by Mr. Yeoville Thomason, and the portion erected was formally opened at a luncheon, on November 23, 1873, at which the Earl of Denbigh presided. The *Midland Counties Herald* says:—

This instalment of a handsome and commodious edifice consists of a well-arranged out-patient department on the ground floor, between which and the in-patient there is no communication internally; two large wards, with bath rooms for women and children, on the first floor; and a day room for convalescent women, and a laundry on the second floor. The outlay has been about £7,000, of which £3,000 remains unpaid. Until this debt is wiped off the committee will not proceed further with their undertaking, but in the meantime continue to occupy their present temporary premises as male wards, day room for convalescents, wards for patients able to pay for private accommodation, detached wards for infectious diseases, board room, house surgeon's apartments, and domestic offices. The number of paying patients both in and out is increasing, the receipts from them in 1875 having amounted to £207. Another satisfactory fact recorded in the history of last year is that no fewer than 311 patients were attended at their homes, against 208 in 1874; but the annual expenditure appears to exceed the regular income by nearly £300. Besides providing comfortable clothing for such patients as are in want of it, the ladies on the wardrobe committee now visit the residences of home patients, giving hints as to cleanliness, ventilation, and the proper use of cooked food, when, on the requisition of the house surgeon (Dr. John Craig), it is given to those patients by the matron at the hospital.

The committee of the Birmingham and Midland Homœopathic Hospital, says the *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, have initiated a scheme which, in its practical working, is calculated to confer great benefits upon the patients of that institution. It has been resolved to establish a Home Relief Fund, for patients who require food as well as medicine. The question of the advisability of founding such an agency

was originally referred to a committee of ladies, known as the "Wardrobe Committee," who proceeded to inquire into the systems adopted elsewhere, and who, acting upon the knowledge thus gained, drew up a series of suggestions in a report, which has been approved and adopted by the general committee. Briefly, we may say their recommendations were to the effect that when anyone of the medical officers has a case in which nourishment is needed, as well as, or instead of, medicine, he shall write an order for what is required and give it up to the patient, sending a duplicate to the matron, so that she may know what to provide. The committee further will strive to ensure proper ventilation and cleanly surroundings (which, indeed, are often as necessary to recovery as food or medicine) by visiting the houses of the patients where the medical officers attend with "Home Tickets." The latter part of the scheme is worthy of especial commendation, for whilst doubtless the restoration of the patient's health will be the first care of the visitors, they will have it in their power to give such hints as may tend to preserve health when restored, and remove, to some extent, the causes which entail among the poor and ignorant such a vast amount of preventible disease.

The following table shows the number of patients admitted from 1854 to 1869 inclusive :—

Date.	Home.	Out.	In-Patients.
1854	No record	16,518	
1855	„	12,220	
1856	„	10,941	
1857	„	12,230	
1858	„	15,495	
1859	„	17,138	23 (9 months)
1860	„	14,370	39
1861	„	13,590	43
1862	„	13,815	43
1863	946	13,554	59
1864	635	12,323	77
1865	864	12,938	98
1866	899	14,764	95
1867	860	11,599	94
1868	1,504	13,791	113
1869	1,432	18,622	134

THE NATURAL HISTORY AND MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.

THE following excellent sketch of this useful society is from the *Daily Mail* of January 8th, 1877:—"Five-and-twenty years ago the local naturalist was well nigh as great a rarity as the Dispar. Here and there were to be found men who devoted their leisure to egg collecting, or who hunted the gay butterfly, or tracked the gorgeous moth to its lair; but, unfortunately, the end and aim of the ambition of these gentlemen was to catch in quantities, and arrange in designs, the brilliant coloured corpses of the butterflies and moths they had secured; and great gaping initials and vulgar figures of the year in which the lepidopterous horror was with all pride perpetrated, were the only results of—perhaps years of patient collecting. These framed evidences of misspent zeal and misdirected energy spoke eloquently of the desire for knowledge; and hideous as were the crowns composed of emperors, and true lovers' knots of fritillaries, in themselves, they told a tale of a love of nature. No class for the teaching of animal physiology or zoology then existed; no society for the study of natural history had then been even contemplated, and good scientific books were more expensive and abstruse than now. What wonder that the poor lover of nature ignorantly worshipped at her shrine, and sacrificed blindly thousands of insects' lives in mistaken zeal. The initiative to form a Natural History Society which should remedy the state of things then existing was taken (to his honour, be it said) by a working man, who in the latter half of the year 1858 gathered together a few lovers of nature for this purpose. At their meeting it was determined to form a society for the purposes of the mutual instruction of its members, the furtherance of a

knowledge of natural history, and the acquirement of a museum and library. Other meetings followed, a set of rules was decided upon and other necessary business transacted, and in November the first meeting of the new society was held, at which eight members attended. In the following month the work of the society commenced in earnest, the first paper being read by the hon. sec., Mr. G. W. Clarke. The first annual meeting was held in January, 1859, at which Dr. W. Hinds was elected president. The place of meeting was a room in the Midland Institute, the use of which the council had granted, through Mr. Arthur Ryland, free of charge. It would appear that the members at this time were backward in giving papers, as the secretary read three at as many successive meetings. This indefatigable gentleman, who appears to have laboured assiduously to keep life in the society, in a few months resigned, and its members knew him no more. During the year the hon. secretary was again changed; a misunderstanding arose among the officers, several interesting papers were read, and several excursions made; and when the following January came round a report was presented which showed the number of members was 32, and Mr. A. Franklin, the well-known taxidermist, was elected president. The society, since its formation, had never lost sight of the importance of acquiring a library, and at its first meeting it was decided that the monthly numbers of the *Zoologist* and *Physiologist* should be purchased. For the next two years the society suffered numerical retrogression, but the majority of the few members it possessed were, happily, staunch and true, and at every meeting some interesting paper was read, or some rare plant or insect laid upon the table for examination; and prominent among the contributors at this time were Mr. A. Franklin and the late Mr. H. Webb, who afterwards stood in the foremost rank as a preparer of microscopic objects. The fifth year of the society's age was a somewhat depressing one. Some of the periodicals belonging to it were lost, the number of excursions dwindled down to two, and the number of

members attending the meetings was frequently but five, and upon one occasion four only were present. The following year was a memorable one in its history; new life was infused into it. Mr. W. R. Hughes was elected president, and a sub-committee was appointed to consider the laws of the society and frame a new code. The gentlemen appointed applied to no fewer than 23 societies in the kingdom for copies of their rules, and for any information they might give that was useful. Twenty of the societies responded most willingly, and the sub-committee were enabled to produce for adoption a set of rules in every way admirable. One of these is so excellent we cannot refrain from quoting it in full. It is, "That this society shall endeavour to discourage the practice of removing rare plants from the localities of which they are characteristic, and of risking extermination of rare birds and other animals by wanton persecution; that the members use every legitimate means to protect the characteristic birds of the country, and to dispel the prejudicies which are leading to their destruction; that the rare specimens collected at the excursion meetings be gathered as far as possible without disturbing the roots, and that notes on the habits of birds be accumulated instead of specimens by which our closet collections would be enriched at the expense of the great museum of nature." This year saw also the establishment of a Microscopical Section. A letter in the *Daily Post* proposing the formation of a Microscopical Society led to meetings and conferences, and ultimately it was decided to add a section, having one night in each month set apart for microscopy. Mr. Thomas Fiddian, who had done much to further this object, was elected as a third vice-president, and as practically the ruling spirit of the microscopical branch. A proposal was made during the summer to the committee of the Botanical Gardens that they should make their grounds more suitable as a place of study, but no result followed. A large increase in the number of members was in this year made. This result was due to the greater spirit of the members, the larger publicity of the society's labours,

and the formation of the Microscopical Section. The addition of the latter necessitated a reconstruction of the rules. This was done, and a new one added, to the effect that the retiring president should deliver an address. Mr. Hughes conformed to the new law, and that gentleman's address was printed, as were the new laws. In 1865 the number of members rose from 73 to 137. Men eminent in the scientific world began to notice the society, and the library, which had gone on steadily increasing, was enriched by the gift of the whole of the publications of the Ray Society, consisting of 37 volumes, from Dr. Bell Fletcher. This handsome presentation was followed in the following year by the present of 25 volumes, given by some of the members, and further enriched by the addition of 75 volumes purchased out of the funds of the society. In addition to the usual excursions, an attempt was made in this year to organise a series of short Saturday afternoon excursions, and six were made. The society, during the next three years, progressed steadily, the only change effected was its division into sections, namely, a Zoological, Geological, Conchological, Botanical, and Microscopical, each of which, through its own secretary, presented a satisfactory report at the close of the year, 1870. By these means the studies of the members became more concentrated and their labours less desultory, and the danger of a smattering of scientific knowledge to some extent averted, a general acquaintance with all branches acquired, and special study of the favourite branch encouraged. Good work was accomplished by it, some of which was of an original character; and it is to the latter class of labour the society must look to further enhance its value in the opinions of those whose opinion is worth having in scientific matters. The student must pass through a careful course of training before he can be trusted to observe correctly; attempts at original investigation from the scientifically untutored would be of necessity comparatively valueless. As, however, the society possesses men of its own making, who have devoted years of their leisure to painstaking study, and has also

attracted to itself the best naturalists of the district, it can look forward to work of an original character that shall confer honour upon it and benefit the scientific world.

The society in 1873 saw fit in its wisdom to open its classes for the admission of lady members, and that not with a half-hearted welcome that hampered the entrance of fair naturalists with trying restrictions, but offered freely to them all the privileges hitherto exclusively enjoyed by gentlemen. This step was original as it was graceful. In originality it was, however, eclipsed by another highly important experiment made by the society, when, in the end of August and the commencement of September of this year, some of its members visited the south coast of Devon for the purpose of studing marine zoology. A yacht being chartered, dredgings were carried on daily for a week. This visit was as pleasurable as it was scientifically valuable to those who had the good fortune to be of the party. The dredgings were successful, as many rare and interesting objects, including the larvel and adult forms of Antedon Rosaceus, were brought to light, and ultimately prepared and presented to the society by that painstaking microscopist, Mr. A. W. Wills. In December, 1863, Mr. W. R. Hughes, at the annual soirée, suggested that an endeavour should be made to establish in Birmingham a marine aquarium. The suggestion was taken up by the society, and a sub-committee formed for the purpose of obtaining information on the subject of marine aquaria. Mr. Hughes, in the following January, read a paper before the society on the principles and management of the marine aquarium—a contribution the more valuable as the substance of the communication came from a gentleman who for years had made the subject a practical study. The sub-committee set to work in true earnest and obtained information as to the cost of establishment and maintenance of marine aquaria in England and on the Continent. The result of their labours was an admirable report, containing the opinions of many practical managers of aquaria, and their own careful summing up of the evidence obtained.

As we have before stated, the last duty of the president for the year is the delivery of an address, and this delivery of the presidential parting words is an event in the society's annals of the year. Mr. W. R. Hughes, Dr. Hinds, the Rev. H. W. Crosskey, Mr. A. W. Wills, Mr. W. P. Marshall, and others have delivered addresses which, with the annual reports, have been printed, and these, evincing much knowledge and careful thought, are valuable additions to our local literature.

The society, in addition to the scientific culture of its members, has done no little in infusing a love of nature into those without the pale of its direct influences. It is to its members that the town is indebted for the magnificent microscopical displays at the conversaziones of the Midland Institute and other institutions. Here, under the able management of Messrs. W. P. Marshall and A. W. Wills, the newest rarities in the microscopical world are exhibited; for members with willingness, at the call of their chiefs, place their valuable instruments and their valuable assistance at their disposal. The result is a display that is rarely excelled out of London. Here the most superbly marked insects, the choicest feramanifera forms, the rarest and newest diatoms, the most delicate physiological injections, the most fancifully beautiful crystals, and the most delicately formed zoophytes are exhibited in their most attractive form by the aid of instruments possessing powers of unsurpassable depth and definition, aided by polariscope, paralelloid, and other accessories, valuable beyond description in the able hands of the members of this most valuable society. With such instruments, such objects, and such skilled hands to manipulate them, it is little wonder that, year after year, at the Institute and Natural History Society's Conversaziones, the microscopical tables are surrounded by delighted and wondering throngs."

THE FREE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.

This is one of the youngest, the best managed, and most successful of the many charities of the town. To Dr. T. P. Heslop belongs the honour of having first suggested the formation of a hospital to be specially devoted to the treatment of sick children. He is, in fact, the founder of the institution, which will remain a splendid monument to his memory. In this grand work he was ably supported by Mr. C. E. Mathews, who for twelve years acted as honorary secretary to the hospital. Not only its orign, but its extraordinary success, is mainly due to the untiring zeal, the incessant labours, and the disinterested devotion of these two gentlemen. In the earlier years of its growth they were ably supported by the well-known energy of the Rev. Dr. J. C. Miller. The following brief history of the hospital is compiled from the full and excellent annual reports which have been presented to the governors.

At the end of June, 1861, a private meeting was held, attended by many gentlemen of position and influence in the town, and presided over by Mr. A. Ryland, the then Mayor, at which it was unanimously resolved that it was desirable to establish in Birmingham an institution for the exclusive treatment of diseases peculiar to children, and the Mayor was requested to convene a public meeting to take the matter into consideration, and to decide upon the steps necessary to be taken for the establishment of the proposed institution. This meeting was held in the Council Chamber, Moor Street, on Friday, July 12, 1861, and in the unavoidable absence of the Mayor, was presided over by the Rev. Canon Miller, and the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—

That it is desirable to establish a Hospital for Sick Children, in Birmingham, having for its objects: 1.—The medical and surgical treatment of poor children. 2.—The attainment and diffusion of knowledge regarding the diseases of children. 3.—The training of nurses for children.

A provisional committee was elected to carry out these resolutions, who subsequently appointed three sub-committees, one for determining upon a suitable site for the proposed hospital; another for forming a constitution and code of laws for its government; and a third for raising the necessary funds. After much labour the committee ultimately succeeded in obtaining the building known as the Eye Infirmary, in Steelhouse Lane, for the new hospital. The sum paid for this, including all fixtures, was £2,100. A code of laws was also prepared, which possessed "one great feature of peculiarity, viz., that the Institution is free." The following extract from the report of the Provisional Committee gives their reason for adopting this principle, and also the objects of the hospital:—

Your committee came to the conclusion that the giving to subscribers the privilege of recommending patients was really at the bottom of many of the embarrassments by which charitable institutions are constantly fettered; and they decided that, if they were to avoid the necessity of constant appeals to the charity of the public, the institution must be free. They have, consequently, merely required that each patient shall be provided with a certificate, signed by two householders, that the applicant is a proper object of relief, and then, there being funds and accommodation, that the patient should be at once admitted. The laws have been carefully adapted from those of similar institutions, altered with a view to local exigencies, and, it is believed, will be found to give general satisfaction.

Your committee decided that no child should be admitted into the institution, under any circumstances, who is more than ten years of age, and definitely settled the following as the objects of the institution, viz.:

1.—*Objects of the Institution:* to provide for the reception, maintenance, and medical treatment of the children of the poor, under ten years of age, during sickness; to furnish with advice and medicine those who cannot or need not be admitted into the hospital; and to visit them at their own homes when necessary.

2.—To promote the advancement of medical science, with reference to the diseases of childhood, and especially to provide for the more efficient instruction of students in this department of medical knowledge.

3.—To diffuse among all classes of the community, and particularly among the poor, a better acquaintance with the management of infants and children during illness; and, in particular, to assist in the education and training of women in the special duties of children's nurses.

4.—To confine itself as much as possible to the diseases peculiar to children, it being understood that cases of small pox, burns, accidents, and general surgical cases cannot be received into the institution.

The first annual meeting was held on January 13, 1862, at the theatre of the Midland Institute, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Lord Lyttelton. The report of the Provisional Committee was presented and adopted, and Mr. C. E. Mathews, the hon. secretary, gave an account of the finances. He said that, although no canvass had been made, donations exceeding £1,100 had been sent in, most of which had been paid. This sum, with £1,000 the committee had borrowed, at 4½ per cent., had enabled them to pay off the purchase money of the building in Steelhouse Lane. The subscription list amounted to £300 a year, all of which was paid up. The committee desired to raise the further sum of £350 for the necessary fittings and preliminary incidental expenses, and to raise the subscription list from £300 to £500 a year, which would ensure the efficient working of the institution on its present basis. The sum of £300, which it had been anticipated would be needed to furnish the institution in all its departments, had been rendered unnecessary by the generosity of sixty manufacturers and tradesmen of Birmingham, who had contributed the whole of the articles necessary. The hospital had been opened for out-patients on the first of January, and several had received relief daily since that time; there were then eight beds ready for the reception of patients. A summary of the reasons for the establishment of a Children's Hospital in Birmingham was appended to the report.

The following supplementary report was also presented to the meeting:—

The committee feel that their record of these preliminary proceedings, and of the subsequent action by which the hospital has been established, would be incomplete, and that a public debt of gratitude would be un-

paid, if no acknowledgment were made in this report of the noble and effective services rendered by Dr. Heslop, now, happily for the infant institution, elected one of its acting physicians; and of the untiring and most successful efforts of their honorary secretary, C. E. Mathews, Esq. The name of the former of these two gentlemen must be inscribed upon the pages of this report, as that of the founder of the hospital. By his patient and discriminating research were facts and figures collected, which left no doubt of the need of such an institution; and his great and practical ability has been of incalculable assistance to the committee, in the drawing up of the laws, and in the opening of the hospital.

Mr. Mathews has laboured with a self-devotion which has been crowned with signal success, and which demands the hearty acknowledgment of the public, whose support the committee now desire, while they commend this good work to the blessing of the God of Mercy.

On the motion of Mr. A. Ryland, seconded by Mr. R. W. Dale, it was resolved—"That this meeting recognizes the importance of a Children's Hospital in Birmingham, and congratulates this town that such an Institution has been founded." The Right Hon. Lord Leigh was appointed president; the Mayor (Mr. H. Manton), Mr. W. Scholefield, M.P., Mr. A. Ryland, and Dr. Miller, vice-presidents; Mr. S. S. Lloyd, treasurer; and Mr. C. E. Mathews, hon. secretary; and the following gentlemen were elected the first Managing Committee: Mr. S. Berry, Rev. W. Cockin, Mr. R. W. Dale, Major Elwell, Mr. R. Fletcher, Mr. E. Gem, Mr. J. D. Goodman, Mr. C. Gibbs, Mr. W. Holliday, Mr. J. Jaffray, Mr. T. Kekewitch, Mr. T. Lloyd, Lieutenant-Colonel J. O. Mason, Mr. J. Phillips, Sir F. Scott, Bart., Mr. T. Short, jun., Mr. C. Sturge, and Mr. H. Wiggin.

The progress of the Hospital during 1862 was unprecedented. The number of patients admitted was, out-patients, 6,918; in-patients, 214; home-patients, 175; making a total of 7,307. At the first annual general meeting, held on January 12, 1863, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Sir J. S. Pakington, Bart., the statement of accounts showed that on the building account there was a deficiency of £123 19s. 3d., in addition to the £1,000 mortgage. On the general account, the expenditure had been £753 12s. 8d., and

the income £717 11s. 10d., leaving a deficiency of £36 0s. 10d., making the total deficiency £160 0s. 1d. Besides this there were donations not received amounting to £24 19s., and subscriptions not received amounting to £94 7s.

The report contained the following important memorandum, which had been received from the medical board.

MEMORANDUM.

It appears to the members of this committee, that the efficient working of the hospital will be greatly promoted by the formation of a contagious department.

Many cases of acute disease in an early stage present themselves among the out-patients, which, on account of their showing indications of a probably forthcoming infectious disorder, are treated at great disadvantage, either at home or as out-patients.

Where treated at home they become nuclei for the extension of the disease, when turning out to be contagious; and are subjected to all the bad hygienic conditions so well known to exist in the habitations of the poorer classes.

Hence the mortality among patients of this class, thus treated, has been very great, as evidenced by the records to be found in the home-patient register.

The treatment of these children as out-patients is very embarrassing, should they turn out acute cases of ordinary maladies, and is quite impracticable, should they develop into contagious disorders.

The medical committee would reap the utmost advantage in their work if they felt themselves justified by the arrangements of the hospital in admitting such cases into a quarantine department.

Occasionally, cases of ordinary disease or surgical affections have become the subject of infectious disorders, subsequent to their admission as in-patients. Some of these have shown the symptoms of the graver complaint at such a period as to prove that the latter had been caught prior to admission. Others have become so affected at such other periods during their stay within the walls as to indicate a probable importation of the malady, by some means, into the institution.

The necessity of abruptly dismissing such patients, the moment they are discovered to be labouring under an infectious malady, has much distressed the medical staff. While such a course is necessarily attended with a certain amount of detriment as regards the individual patient, it exposes the administration to the charge of deliberately inflicting upon a family an evil of the gravest nature, the possible ramifications of which cannot be foreseen or warded off. This, too, is done at a crisis when the sufferer is so sorely in need of medical skill, proper food, and good sanitary environments.

The medical committee feel that such a line of action, though urgently demanded by the present arrangements of the institution, is not congenial to humanity, and can scarcely fail, if prolonged, to damage the interests of the charity.

One case has occurred which it was found impossible to send away completely from the hospital. The child had been an in-patient for several weeks, with a severe lung disorder. Scarlet fever suddenly made its appearance, and, in conformity with the instructions of the physician in charge of the case, the house-surgeon requested the mother to withdraw the child from the hospital. She was in lodgings with another child. The people of the lodging-house refused to admit the child, and the mother herself was waiting only for its recovery in order to apply for admission to the Workhouse. Under these painful circumstances, the infant was placed in the house now void adjoining the hospital, and the mother was permitted to attend her baby until its death. Happily, no other inmate of the institution caught the disease.

Such facts as these clearly demonstrate the desirableness of a quarantine department.

It is a source of satisfaction to the medical staff, that the house just alluded to is thoroughly fitted for this purpose, and is readily obtainable by the committee of management.

It is in excellent order, the rooms are high and well lighted, and the communication with the present hospital precisely such as is demanded by the necessities of the department. They recommend that six beds be placed in the rooms of this house, for contagious cases, and reserve for the present the question of their exact distribution.

The medical committee are but too well aware that considerable expense will be incurred in the organization and working of the new department; but the importance of this addition has become ever more strongly impressed upon their minds, whether they have considered the facts daily submitted to their own notice, or reflected upon the experience of similar institutions.

They are encouraged to believe that the public will view the matter in the same light, and will warmly support the committee of management in their efforts to cope with the infantile diseases of the poorer classes.

The committee stated in their report:—"Much remains to be done. The quarantine, or contagious department, demands instant action. The original programme is not yet carried out. Not only have your committee been unable to take up the training of nurses for sick children, but an entire ward stands useless, because unfurnished; and this amid daily

pressure for admission. But too constant a succession of occupants might be found for bedsteads which remain unused for lack of the necessary bedding and of other furniture. The committee are convinced that a personal inspection of the hospital, and a personal knowledge of the blessings which it is conferring upon hundreds of tender and suffering children, are all that is wanting to draw forth the generosity of the public. The crowded waiting-room—mothers pressing to the very stair-case with their ailing children—the little sufferers in their beds or in the play-room, succoured by superior medical skill, nourished with carefully prescribed and well-cooked food, and tended with watchful gentleness—present a plea which needs no rhetorical colouring to give it power over every feeling heart. Sickness and suffering—our common lot—must ever draw forth sympathy. But when sickness is combined with poverty, and the sufferer is the poor man's child, who among us can be unmoved?"

On the motion of Dr. Miller, seconded by Mr. R. W. Dale, it was unanimously resolved: "That this meeting, recognizing in the unprecedented success which has marked the first year of the Hospital for Sick Children decisive evidence that such an institution was urgently needed, desires to express its hearty satisfaction at the addition of the hospital to the beneficent charities of the town and district, and its hope that the enlarged liberality of the public will enable the committee to complete the original programme, by the fitting-up of the unfurnished ward, and by the training of nurses; and also to render the quarantine department immediately available."

The Right Hon. Lord Lyttelton was elected president for the year.

In 1863, the number of patients admitted was 7,823, thus classified: out-patients, 7,319; in-patients, 420; home-patients, 84. The most important feature is in the great increase of in-patients, which rose from 214 in 1862, to 420 in twelve months. The subscription list amounted to

£580; donations to £497 11s. 0d.; subscriptions paid twice during the year to £102 17s. 6d., making the total receipts £1,184 11s. 10d. The expenditure was £1,148 3s. 6d. This report was presented at the annual meeting, January 11, 1864, and it included a recommendation to the Governors to increase the medical staff, and regulations for the admission of patients. In this year a contagious department was established in connection with the hospital. One important feature in the management is the appointment of lady visitors under the following regulations:—

That the lady visitors be chosen from among those ladies who, themselves or their relatives, subscribe to the Hospital, and express their willingness to undertake such duties as are herein described.

That the lady visitors visit the institution in rotation, according to a rota to be prepared and circulated amongst them; and two ladies be appointed to visit for one fortnight, and to attend the hospital once in each week.

That their duties be to go through the whole house; to take notice of its general cleanliness, regularity, and economy; to report in the Visitors' Book (which shall lie for that purpose in the Board Room) any observations which may suggest themselves after any inspection; and to take some convenient time for conversing with and contributing to the amusement and happiness of the children.

That on the dismissal of any child from the hospital, when cured, one of the ladies of the visiting committee take an early opportunity, when practicable, of seeing the parents of the child, and pointing out to them the necessity or desirableness of such a mode of treatment as their knowledge of the child, or the advice of the physicians or surgeons, may suggest.

In 1864, the number of patients admitted had increased to 8,512—out-patients, 7,523; in-patients, 614; home-patients, 375. The total income, including £529 2s. 7d. from the collection for the Amalgamated Charities, was £1,541 19s. 1d., and the expenditure £1,340 3s. 3d. In this year a Building Fund was opened for the purpose of liquidating the debt (£1,000) which had been incurred in the purchase of the hospital. Mr. James Stilliard, was appointed as secretary, collector, and canvasser.

The labours of the committee in 1865, were crowned with great success. The £1,000 required to pay off the debt was subscribed; and on the 9th of October the mortgage debt was paid off; and the building was thus "wholly unencumbered." In addition to this amount, the sum of £210 19s. 3d. was received towards a special fund of £500 to pay for furniture and surgical instruments, for which the charity owed money to its bankers. The annual subscriptions were also increased by £123. The donations for the year included £100 from the Committee of the Working-Men's Exhibition. The patients admitted during the year were: out, 9,184; in, 612; home, 384; total, 10,144.

In April, 1866, Dr. Miller resigned the office of vice-president; his reasons are given in the following letter, addressed to the chairman:—

My dear Mr. Chairman,

Successive summonses to various boards and committees are bringing upon me the painful necessity of snapping one after another the ties which bind me to some of the public work of Birmingham.

I have now to resign my office as vice-president of what has been to me a *pet* charity—our Children's Hospital.

By an unexpected accident I presided at its birth; and by the kindness of its parents and friends have joined in rocking its cradle until it has become a bonny bairn.

My services have been humble but hearty; and I part from as efficient and courteous a body of colleagues as ever sat at a public board, with gratitude for all their unvarying kindness, with sincere sorrow at the severance, and with the heartiest good wishes for the future prosperity of an institution destined as I hope to occupy a very different site and building, and to rank with the foremost of the Birmingham charities of the future.

Yours, my dear Sir, always faithfully,

JOHN C. MILLER.

The Chairman of the
Children's Hospital.

The committee expressed the deep sense they entertained of the eminent services Dr. Miller had rendered to the hospital, and their regret that it would no longer have the advantage of his able and zealous co-operation.

The number of patients for this year was, 9,557, viz.: out, 9,029; in, 344; home, 184. The total receipts amounted to £1,403 15s. 9d.; and the expenditure to £1,328 3s. 7d.

In 1867, the committee resolved to provide a new out-patient department, separated from the main building, and specially designed for their accommodation. For this purpose they leased from the trustees of Lench's Trust, at a ground-rent of £100 a year, a site of land at the corner of Steelhouse Lane and the Priory, containing nearly 600 square yards. On this site an out-patient department has been erected, on a plan prepared by Messrs. Martin and Chamberlain, at a cost of over £3,000. The annual meeting on January 11, 1869, was held in the Hall of this new department.

This year is remarkable in the history of the hospital, by the introduction of another special feature in the committee election. In most charities the medical officers are either appointed by the committee of management, or elected by the whole body of governors. In the former method, the one thing to be feared is the introduction of favouritism or jobbery; in the latter, the influence of persistent and powerful canvassing; and in both cases the least efficient candidate is often elected. The committee is too small, and the whole of the governors too large a body to be safely intrusted with this duty. At the Children's Hospital the happy medium has been secured by providing an election committee, which consists of the managing committee, the officers of the hospital, the senior physician and surgeon of the General, the Queen's Hospital, and the General Dispensary, with twenty governors of the Children's Hospital, elected by ballot. By this committee, the medical officers of the institution are now elected, and the plan has been found to work most advantageously in promoting the best interests of the charity.

In 1867, the patients numbered 10,189, viz.: out, 9,503; in, 566; home, 120; the total income was, £1,407 2s. 5d.; and the expenditure, £1,342 2s. 2d.

The principal event of 1868 has already been recorded—the opening of the new out-patient department on January 11. This was formally declared by Lord Dudley, the president; and the good work was celebrated by a luncheon at the Great Western Hotel. Under the circumstances, it will not be out of place to quote here the words which the late (álas, that ever I should have to write these words!) Mr. George Dawson spoke on that occasion. "He rose," he said, "with a spirit of thankfulness, as a 'minister of all denominations,' to acknowledge the toast. It was delightful to witness that, however they might snarl and wrangle over theology—one of the most profitless businesses in the world to quarrel over—they all, if rightly appealed to, acknowledged the most excellent bond of charity to be the oldest, deepest, truest, and tenderest that could bring men together; and if there was one species of charity that more fully opened the heart than any other, it was the charity evoked by the sorrows and sufferings of children. The holiest work of charity was to assuage their griefs and to allay their pains. He knew nothing so thoroughly womanly, or so nobly manly as to minister to the wants of the little ones. He hoped that when the periodical collections came round, the Children's Hospital would obtain a large share. He was sure it would be needed, because whatever else decayed, the number of children never did. With regard to the building which they had opened, he was glad the committee of the Children's Hospital understood and imitated the works of God. Birmingham was filled with architecture which—especially on a dull foggy morning—lay like a nightmare upon the soul, and he was delighted that there was in this town one committee wise enough to understand that a little beauty cost a little money, but gave great joy. That building was a great work, and the sick child would be none the worse for letting his little eyes rest upon the pleasant figures in the stained window or the beautiful forms the architects had given to be gazed upon. He congratulated the Children's Hospital upon having done something to relieve that sad disease, deformity, hideousness, misconstruction, rickets, and ugliness in architecture."

No fewer than 12,205 patients were admitted during the year: out, 11,423; in, 602; home, 180. Income for the year, £1,158 7s. 9d.; expenditure, 1,393 13s. 4d., showing an excess of cost over receipts of £235 5s. 7d. The committee concluded their report in the following words:—

It has been sometimes held that the human frame undergoes a total renewal every seven years. If such a rule may be properly applied to a public charity, your committee venture to hope that with additional public support and increased public confidence the Children's Hospital may now enter upon a new and enlarged sphere of usefulness, and prove a still greater blessing than heretofore to the town and neighbourhood of Birmingham.

This hope of increased usefulness was speedily realised, for a new and enlarged sphere was secured in 1869. In the report presented at their ninth annual meeting, held on January 10th, 1870, the committee gave the governors the following interesting information:—

In the spring of the past year the new system of administration adopted by the managers of the Lying-In Charity, placed their commodious building in Broad Street at the disposal of the public. It was offered to your committee by Mr. J. D. Goodman, but your committee did not see their way to recommend the purchase of a property held under a comparatively short lease. After some negotiations, however, they appointed a sub-committee to consider and report upon the condition and suitability of the building, and the report was presented by the sub-committee. The Medical Board, upon being consulted upon the same matter, strongly urged that the building in Broad Street should be secured for the In-patient Department of the Hospital, believing that a change of site would be most advantageous to the best interests of the charity; and, after some further negotiations, your committee arranged with the managers of the Lying-In Charity for a *sub-lease of the building and grounds for a term of* 50 *years*, at a rental of £150 for the first seven years, and £175 for the remainder of the term. The reconstruction of the building and its thorough cleaning and repair has been already carried out, and will cost about £300; a garden will be laid out to surround the building, at private cost; and a handsome new entrance gateway and boundary railing is now in course of construction, at the joint expense of the senior physician of the charity, Dr. T. P. Heslop, and its honorary secretary, Mr. C. E. Mathews.

The sub-committee in their report expressed their views on the suitability of the site and building:—

The site in Broad Street is, in the opinion of your committee, one of the very best sites that could possibly be selected within the borough of Birmingham for the purpose of a Children's Hospital. It is far enough from the centre of the town to secure abundance of light and air, and near enough to be readily accessible by patients—it is in a most prominent public situation—it is convenient alike for medical officers, lady visitors, and members of the administration. It possesses an ample space of ground, more than sufficient to provide an admirable play-ground for convalescent children. The central compartment (built for a private house) is everything that could be desired for hospital administration. It comprises two excellent sitting-rooms, suitable for house-surgeon and matron's rooms, excellent kitchen, back kitchen, laundry, and out-offices ; four good first-floor bed-rooms, one of which would make a good nursery or play-room ; and five bed-rooms for nurses, pupils, or servants on the second or top story. The two large wings, built specially for hospital purposes, comprise three magnificent wards, capable of accommodating 36 beds ; and a slight alteration would convert, what is now the out-patient department, into a first-rate contagious ward, with separate entrance, and capable of accommodating 16 beds. In round numbers it may be stated that the building in Steelhouse Lane would accommodate 30 beds with about 500 cubic feet of air per bed, while the building in Broad Street would accommodate 60 beds with about 650 cubic feet of air per bed.

The financial condition of the hospital in this very eventful year, and the committee's justifiable confidence in the future, are quoted from the report:—

The invested property of the hospital has produced £29 17s. 9d., fees, charity boxes, and sundries, £23 11s. 7d. The total income has been £1,530 13s. 5d., the largest income from ordinary sources which the charity has ever yet received. The expenditure has been £1,760 9s. 2d., showing a deficit of £229 15s. 9d. upon the year's accounts. This deficit, together with a small balance against the hospital last year, has caused an overdraft at the bankers of about £450.

The increased expenditure was anticipated. The ground rent of the new out-patient department, opened last January, is £100 a year, and a considerable additional, but quite necessary, expenditure has been incurred under the heads of water, gas, coals, and similar items.

The present deficit, however, gives your committee no uneasiness. An income of £2,000 a year will probably be sufficient for all the ordinary purposes of the charity for many years to come. The average donations may be now reckoned at £500 a year, and the progressive increase of subscriptions leads your committee to hope that £1,500 may soon be obtained from that source alone. Moreover, the share which the hospital may expect to receive from this year's charitable collections will more than counter-balance the present overdraft.

The increase in the number of patients continued. This year it reached 13,525, thus classified: out, 12,834; in, 558; home, 133.

The charity sustained a loss this year in the death of Dr. James Johnston, who had been consulting physician since its formation. Dr. G. F. Evans consented to become his successor.

Our record is, happily, one of continued progress. In 1870, the subscriptions had increased to £1,110 9s. 6d., the total income from all ordinary sources to £1,905 3s. 9d.; £834 4s. 5d. had been secured from the congregational collections; and the entire sum received amounted to £2,740 8s. 2d. The total expenditure was £2,720 13s. 11d.; and the deficit had been decreased from £415 16s. 4d., to £396 2s. 1d. A legacy of £100, had been left by Mr. R. Smith, and one of £300, by Mr. A. S. Evans. All legacies are, by the laws of the hospital, invested, and when that of Mr. Evans was paid, the charity had £1,075 in hand on legacy investment account. The number of patients had increased to 14,921, viz.: out, 13,932; in, 862; home 127.

The medical board suffered a loss this year in the death of Dr. Earle; the vacancy thus caused was filled up by the election of Dr. James Johnston, Physician to the Queen's Hospital.

From the report of the committee, presented to the governors at the Tenth Annual Meeting, held January 8th, 1872, the following important passages are quoted:—

Apart from extraordinary sources of income, the position of the charity at the close of the past year would have been as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Due on Mortgage	1,670	6	10
Deficit on 1st January, 1871 . . .	311	7	2
Deficit for 1872	613	19	7
Re-constructing and re-fitting the Hospital in Broad Street	415	3	0
Making a total indebtedness of .	£3,010	16	7

An amount which might well have caused the greatest concern to your committee. In the month of January last, however, the following gratifying letter was received by your honorary secretary from an anonymous benefactor :

"Dear Sir,

"I have always taken great interest in the Free Hospital for Sick Children, and have left a legacy to the institution of £1,000. On reading the report just issued, it has occurred to me that it might be better for the interest of the hospital to have the money now than at some future time, and I have therefore placed the sum of £1,000 in the hands of the vice-chairman of the committee, on behalf of the charity. You will be good enough to see that it is applied in part discharge of the mortgage now existing on the out-patient department in Steelhouse Lane."

Your committee were greatly relieved by this seasonable and munificient donation. They immediately reduced the mortgage debt, and then turned their attention to the liquidation of the remaining deficiency of £2,096.

On the appointment of your committee in January last, they inherited a recommendation from their predecessors in office, that a Bazaar should be held in the course of the year to raise the necessary funds required by the charity ; and it was stated in the Report for 1870, that "no such effort had ever yet been made on behalf of the hospital, and that the time had arrived when the popularity of the charity would ensure the success of such an undertaking."

Your committee accordingly made arrangements for a Bazaar to be held in the Town Hall during the Cattle Show week, and secured the co-operation of a number of ladies and gentlemen, who were strongly interested in the well-being of the charity. Owing to the co-operation of Mrs. W. H. Dawes, who took the entire management of an Amateur Concert, with which the Bazaar was opened, and which realized nearly £340, and to the cordial and successful exertions of Mrs. Walker, of Berkswell Hall, and the various ladies who were kind enough to furnish and preside at stalls, the result exceeded the most sanguine expectations of your committee, upwards of £3,400 was received during the week, and the expenses were proportionally much smaller than is usual in similar undertakings. The accounts have not been finally settled by the Bazaar Committee, but the sum of £2,500 has already been paid over to the general account, and it is expected that a considerable additional sum will be very shortly forthcoming.

The increase in the number of out-patients had been so great, that the department was found to be growing "beyond the power of the staff to prescribe for; beyond the capacity of the waiting-hall to hold with safety; beyond the strength of the dispenser to deal with, or of the porter to keep in order; finally, beyond the revenue of the charity." The committee adopted the following regulations by way of experiment:—

1.—Every patient applying in Steelhouse Lane to be made the subject of the same careful enquiry as at present, as to the fitness of the person for relief.

2.—In the event of the secretary being satisfied as to the last point, he should then request the mother to pay sixpence towards the expenses of the out-patient department.

3.—If the patient is a pauper labouring under a serious disease or chronic malady requiring special skill, admission to be granted without the payment of the sixpence; but in this case a note from one of the parish officers, stating the facts, to be always presented.

4.—Any patient labouring under urgent disorders, or suffering from accident, taken to the hospital proper in Broad Street, to be admitted at all times without the necessity for the application of the above regulations.

The payment of sixpence checked, in some degree, the enormous pressure on this department; but, still the number of out-patients in 1871, was 10,812, making, with 812 in, and 177 home patients, a total of 11,801 admitted during the year.

At this meeting Mr. C. E. Mathews informed the governors that he had found it absolutely indispensable to reduce the number of his labours outside his profession, and had therefore placed his resignation in the hands of the committee. Mr. Mathews also stated that he should not have resigned had he not obtained the consent of Mr. Lawley Parker to accept the office. On the motion of Dr. Heslop, seconded by the Rev. Canon Wilkinson, it was unanimously resolved that the cordial thanks of this meeting, and of the governors generally, be presented to Mr. C. E. Mathews for his important

services as honorary secretary to the Children's Hospital for more than ten years, for his courteous attention to the business, his able assistance in drawing up the various reports connected with the charity, his energy in devising and carrying out the needful measures to ensure its prosperity, and his unswervingly loyal co-operation with its officers and committee. The meeting also desire to record their great regret that Mr. Mathews has felt compelled to resign the office which he has held from the first formation of the hospital with so much credit to himself and so much advantage to the town.

Mr. C. E. Mathews was afterwards elected chairman of the committee, and Mr. Lawley Parker, hon. secretary.

We have now reached the period at which these annals cease, but a brief summary of the history of the hospital to the date of publication, will not be out of place. In 1873, its founder, Dr. Heslop, resigned the senior physicianship, and accepted the appointment of consulting physician. In reporting this change, the committee "feel that they cannot do better than repeat the words of the resolution, passed at the meeting following his retirement, and they feel sure all who have watched the institution since its foundation, and know how much he has done for it, will heartily endorse it. The resolution is, 'That this Board accepts the resignation of Dr. Heslop with profound regret, and tenders him its heartfelt thanks for his valuable services in the formation of the institution, for his constant and munificent liberality, and for the unremitting care with which he has watched over the medical and general interests of the charity for a period of twelve years. That this Board fully appreciates Dr. Heslop's motives in refusing re-election for the further period prescribed by the laws, but hopes that the Children's Hospital may for many years receive the benefit of his valued counsels as one of its consulting physicians.'"

In 1874, the lady visitors of the hospital formed a Samaritan Fund, "for the purpose of providing out-patients,

or children who have been patients, with such articles as may be necessary to promote their recovery or to contribute to their comfort—such as water-beds, Mackintosh sheeting, old linen, warm clothing and food, and to assist in sending them into the country for change of air." Much good has already been done by this truly Samaritan addition to the hospital.

At the annual meeting, held under the presidency of the Marquis of Hertford, in January, 1875, it was stated that a fever sub-committee had been appointed to consider what steps should be taken to secure a more complete isolation of infectious cases in both departments, and a report upon the subject was read. In pursuance of the recommendations which it contained, a new wing to the in-patient department, in Broad Street, the foundation stone of which was laid by the Countess of Bradford on the 23rd of May, is now nearly completed. The additional buildings comprise detached wards for cases of fever, diptheria, croup, and other contageous diseases, together with dormitories and refectory for the nurses employed therein, a separate laundry, and a stove for disinfecting the clothes of the patients. When they are completed, increased accommodation will be provided, not only for general cases, but for children whose friends are willing to pay for them, in order to prevent the spread of contagion in their houses. These changes will involve an increase of at least £500 in the annual expenditure, which at present amounts to close upon £3,000 while the subscriptions are about £1,800. Moreover, at the out-patient department in Steelhouse Lane, a waiting-hall is to be built for the reception of new cases, which will be examined immediately on entrance, in order that such as are found to be infectious may be treated in the wards provided for them, or at home. These extensions are estimated to cost £8,000, of which sum about £1,800 has to be raised.

The following table shows the number of every class of patients admitted since the establishment of the hospital:—

Year.	In-patients.	Home-patients.	Out-patients.	Total.
1862	214	175	6,918	7,307
1863	420	84	7,319	7,823
1864	614	375	7,523	8,512
1865	612	348	9,184	10,144
1866	344	184	9,029	9,557
1867	566	120	9,503	10,189
1868	602	180	11,423	12,205
1869	558	133	12,834	13,525
1870	862	127	13,932	14,921
1871	812	177	10,812	11,801
1872	816	106	9,467	10,389
1873	835	117	10,856	11,808
1874	757	115	12,084	12,956
1875	565	127	14,353	15,045
1876	403	45	14,772	15,220
Grand total since commencement				171,402

The following is a list of the presidents:—

The Right Hon. Lord Leigh	1862
The Right Hon. Lord Lyttelton	1863
The Right Hon. Lord Lyttelton	1864
The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Worcester	1865
The Right Hon. the Earl of Harrowby	1866
The Right Hon. the Earl of Lichfield	1867
The Right Hon. the Earl of Dudley	1868
J. T. Chance, Esq.	1869
G. F. Muntz, Esq.	1870
W. Sharp, Esq.	1871
The Right Hon. the Earl Beauchamp	1872
Thomas Lloyd, Esq.	1873
The Marquis of Hertford	1874
John Homer Chance, Esq.	1875
The Right Hon. the Earl of Bradford	1876

The principles on which this eminently successful hospital has been conducted are four:—

1.—The Free System.

2.—No Member of the Acting Medical Staff is on the Managing Board of the Hospital.

3.—The Medical Staff is increased according to the increase in the work.

4.—The Medical Officers are appointed by a Committee specially elected for that purpose.

The success of the hospital fully justifies the wisdom of these principles; and, in the words of Mr. John Jaffray, it is "a proud distinction for the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Miller, and Dr. Heslop, to know that they had been instrumental in founding a hospital which, besides the material good it had done, led the way to hospital reform, and stood forth as a beacon to all institutions for the avoidance of the errors which had crept into the system of management—a guide and example to all that followed."

BIRMINGHAM AMATEUR HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.

The Birmingham Amateur Harmonic Association was established in 1855. Its declared object was the union of the best vocal amateur talent in Birmingham for the study and practice of musical compositions of the highest class; more especially of works not commonly performed. At first it was thought proper to pay attention chiefly to such music as could be effectively given by voices only, or with no other accompaniment than that of an organ. Some of the members of the association who where interested in the success of our great Triennial Musical Festivals, hoped, by thus bringing together a large number of superiorly educated musicians, to infuse into the choral singing at those meetings a refinement which had not before been attained, and they contemplated securing the services of their members as members of the Festival Choir. To what degree this proposal has been realised will be shown in the sequel.

Of course, in the establishment of such an Association as the Amateur Harmonic, it was necessary to raise funds for the purchase of music, to defray the expenses of rent of

rehearsal room, and to pay an efficient conductor. To meet these expenses it was thought proper to make a subscription charge upon the members, and the rates of subscription were fixed, for gentlemen at 10s., and for ladies at 5s. Mr. A. J. Sutton was appointed conductor, and the weekly rehearsals were commenced, and regularly continued. At the end of the first year a Soirée of the members was held, but no public performance or open rehearsal took place. The number of members during the first year was 160, and the secretary's duties were discharged by Mr. John Bragg. In the year 1857, the Amateur Harmonic Association came forward for the first time as a performing society. Miss Glynn gave a reading of Shakespeare's "Macbeth," in aid of the funds of the Midland Institute, and the members of the association sang the incidental music. During the same year, 62 of the members attended the Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace. In 1858, a contingent of 80 members gave their services at the Birmingham Festival, and also sang at the Queen's visit to Birmingham. An alteration was made in the constitution of the association by receiving honorary members, subscribing—gentlemen, 20s., ladies, 10s.; and the subscriptions of the active members were raised to 12s. 6d. and 6s. To the Centenary Handel Festival of 1859, the Association sent 80 members, and in the same year a Concert in aid of the Midland Institute was given, and produced a profit of £20. An attempt was also made to establish Subscription Concerts, whereby the expenses of the Association could be met, but the result was not satisfactory. Hitherto the music used had been borrowed from the library of the Festival committee; this year the Association commenced the formation of a Library of its own, by the purchase of scores and vocal parts of Haydn's "First Mass," and of Mendelssohn's "Hear my Prayer." In 1860, considerable additions were made to the library, Mr. R. A. Gaul presented a score and parts of his new oratorio "Hezekiah," and several members gave scores and parts (in most cases about 100 copies) of Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise,"

"Twenty-second Psalm," "Part Songs for Male Voices," Meyerbeer's "This house to love is holy," Mozart's "Alma Dei Creatoris," Spohr's "Last Judgment," and "Eighth Psalm," &c., &c.

In 1860, the Association sang at a Concert given by Mr. Stimpson, when Sir Sterndale Bennett's cantata, "The May Queen" was given under the direction of the composer. At the Mendelssohn's Festival, at the Crystal Palace, 20 members assisted, and in October a Concert was given at the Music Hall, Broad Street, which, artistically at least, was thoroughly successful. 1861 saw the inauguration of the "Open Rehearsal." Mr. Richard Peyton, to encourage the members in their efforts, and to enable them to show to their friends that those efforts were not wasted, generously paid the incidental expenses of this first meeting of the kind. The tickets for admission were distributed amongst the members, and the music performed was Mendelssohn's "Athalie." In this year 62 members gave their services at the Birmingham Festival; an Association Concert was given, and a Soirée was held.

By this time the Amateur Harmonic Association had clearly marked out its line of proceeding. Its most formidable difficulties had lain in providing funds sufficient to allow of liberal dealings with the professors whom it employed, and in holding out to the members inducements to regularly attend rehearsals. To be constantly practising and never performing was uninteresting, excepting to the most devoted lover of music; consequently, the committee were willing to render assistance to institutions, whether charitable or devoted to the cultivation of art. During the following years, members attended the Festivals of Worcester and Gloucester, the Handel Festivals at the Crystal Palace, the opening of the International Exhibition of 1862, and the Stratford Shakespeare Celebration; their services were also generously given at a performance of "St. Paul" in the Church of the Messiah, in aid of the funds for the erection of a Memorial of the talented and lamented young musician,

Mr. E. F. Bache; and, of course, at each succeeding Triennial Festival. The "Open Rehearsals" took place regularly, and great satisfaction has been given by the performances at those meetings.

In 1871, the character of the open rehearsal was modified by the issue of subscription tickets, and the new plan has proved satisfactorily successful. A small band has been engaged, and the services of able principal vocalists secured. For the first year, the most important works given were Handel's "Jephtha," Schubert's "Song of Miriam," Mendelssohn's "As the Hart Pants," and Handel's "Acis and Galatea."

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE.

By an inexplicable accident several pages of MS. were missed in the history of the above Institute, and their loss was not detected until it was too late to repair the omission. They are now printed, and the reader is informed that the following part of the narrative should be inserted after the word "Incorporation," line eleven from the bottom of page 268, vol. I. of the present work.

The Artisians committee applied to Mr. W. C. Macready, to give a reading in aid of the fund, and received from that truly great actor the following appreciative letter in reply:

Sherborne House, Sherborne, Dorset,
June 7th, 1854.

Dear Sir,

I beg to ackowledge the receipt of your favour of the 29th ultimo, enclosing the copy of a resolution passed by the Artisans committee of the Birmingham and Midland Institute, requesting a dramatic reading in aid of their subscriptions.

I cannot express in terms too forcible the degree of sympathy and the earnest gratification with which I observe the growth of such associations throughout the country, believing, as I do, the elevation and enlightenment of the many to be the only security for the maintenance of order, that essential good, and for the permanence of our national prosperity.

It was with the deepest interest, therefore, that I read the reports of the meetings in which your institution originated; and I should really be *delighted* (I cannot adopt a more formal or less hearty word) if I were able to contribute in the humblest degree towards the advancement of the objects proposed in its formation. But, unhappily, I cannot calculate upon my health, as once I could, nor have I, from the discontinuance of their exercises, the confidence in my powers on which I could formerly rely.

Still, though very loth again to confront a public audience, I am anxiously desirous of being associated with your Institution, and would overcome many scruples to realise the wish, and to testify at the same time the feelings of attachment which, unimpaired by time, I still cherish for the home of my boyhood.

If it accords with the views and wishes of the committee, I will endeavour to arrange for some evening late in the autumn, or towards the close of the year, a reading, which I hope may give them satisfaction.

I remain, dear sir,

Yours very faithfully,

W. C. Macready.

Mr. Frederick Grew, hon. sec., &c.

The Committee of Management, before its dissolution, arranged for the opening of the Industrial Department, as recommended by Dr. Playfair, and afterwards, urged by the Committee of Artisans, appointed by Mr. W. M. Williams, Master of the School of Practical Science. The Council confirmed this appointment at its first meeting, held on the 21st of July, when it was arranged that Mr. Williams should give his first lecture "On the Importance of Scientific Knowledge to the Working Man," on August 17. In this lecture the course of instruction to be pursued in the School of Practical Science, to be opened in October, was explained.

In August the Secretary of the Honourable East India Company, by direction of the Board, transmitted a copy of "Thornton's Gazetteer of Indian Territory," which had recently been completed under the sanction of the Company, with a request that it be placed in the library of the Institute.

On October 2nd, Mr. W. M. Williams delivered the inaugural lecture on Physiology; on the 3rd, on Chemistry; and on the 4th, on Physics; thus commencing the classes for practical science. These lectures were attended by about 250 persons.

The fifth list of donations was published on October 7th; the amount subscribed had now reached £8,415 14s. 1d.

Mr. Macready gave his promised reading at the Town Hall on November 30th, and received a welcome which must have assured him that the Birmingham people had not forgotton one to whom they had been indebted for so many rare intellectual treats. Mr. Macready read Dryden's "Song for St. Cecilia's Day," Pope's "The Dying Christian to his Soul," Wordsworth's "Old Cumberland Beggar," the opening of the fifth book of Milton's "Paradise Lost," the fourth act of the second part of Shakspere's "Henry IV.," and Leigh Hunt's "Abou Ben Adhem." The reading realised £133 5s. 9d.

In December the members of the Birmingham Debating Society subscribed a donation of £25 to the building fund.

The first annual meeting was held July 8, 1855, the Right Hon. Lord Lyttelton, president, in the chair. The report of the proceedings of the Institute since its incorporation was presented and approved. Lord Calthorpe was elected president for the ensuing year; Captain Tindal, R.N., and Mr. Henry Smith, vice-presidents; Mr. Robert Wright, treasurer; and J. S. Dawes, J. B. Hebbert, J. Jaffray, A. Ryland, W. Mathews, jun., George Dixon, P. Hollins, A. F. Osler, T. P. Salt, S. H. Blackwell, George Shaw and Joses Downing, and Thomas L. Preston, from the industrial department, were elected the council.

At the following Council meeting it was reported that Mr. Smith was unable to accept the office of vice-president. Mr. Arthur Ryland was therefore appointed to that office, and Mr. Henry Wiggin elected a member of the Council.

A class for instructing females in household economy was commenced on January 9, 1853; and on the 13th a junior class, which was formed for the purpose of affording to boys and girls opportunities of acquiring a sound elementary knowledge of some of the principal branches of natural sciences. Both these classes were conducted by Mr. W. M. Williams.

To the Midland Institute the town owes the pleasure of first hearing Mr. Thackeray. On April 24th, 1853, the kindly-hearted wit and great novellist delivered his lecture on "Humour and Charity," which resulted in an addition of thirty-eight new annual subscribers, and a profit of £11 13s. on the sale of the tickets.

In July the committee applied to the Town Council for the final transfer of the land for their building, which, on proof that the £10,000 was available, was granted. It was arranged that the foundation stone should be laid during the Festival, and that Prince Albert should be invited to perform the ceremony. The deputation appointed to invite the Prince waited upon his Royal Highness at Osborne on August 10, and received his acceptance of the invitation. November was named by the Prince as the time for the visit.

Twenty-two architects were invited to send in designs for the building, and ten responded. These were S. Hemming, J. J. Bateman, H. R. Yeoville, and J. G. Bland, Birmingham; E. M. Barry, J. Gibson, Henry Bowman, E. D. I'Anson, J. James, and J. M. Lockyer. Unfortunately, the plans of Mr. E. M. Barry were approved, both by the Institute Council and the Town Council. The two premiums offered by the Institute were awarded to Mr. Yeoville and Mr. Gibson.

The foundation stone was laid by Prince Albert on November 22. It was a day of great rejoicing in the town, and was kept as a general holiday. The Town Council and the governors of the Free Grammar School presented addresses. There was a procession, and the Council of the Institute presented an address, to which his Royal Highness made the following reply:—

My lords and gentlemen,

I thank you very sincerely for your address. It is with more than ordinary pleasure that I have accepted your kind invitation to take part in the ceremony which is this day to mark the first step towards the establishment of an institution, from which I join with its warmest supporters in looking for the most advantageous results.

I cannot, indeed, doubt for a moment that the expectations of those who believe that the value and dignity of human labour will receive a manifold increase, when guided by the light of scientific knowledge,

will be amply realised. And it is most gratifying to hear the expression of your opinion, that the desire for the keener and more comprehensive study of the principles by which the exercise of man's productive powers is controlled, from which you anticipate such advantage, has been stimulated by the Great Exhibition of 1851, to my connection with which you have been pleased to allude in such flattering terms.

I cannot forget that the example of such industrial exhibitions had been already set by this town, and with the best results; or that, to the experience so acquired, the Executive Committee of the greater undertaking of '51 were much indebted in carrying that work to a successful issue. As Birmingham was thus foremost in giving a practical stimulus to the works of art and industry, so she is now one of the first in the field to encourage a scientific study of the principles on which those works depend for success.

I trust with you, and confidently believe that the moral as well as the material welfare of this great community will be advanced by the union, for scientific objects, of men of all classes, and of all opinions, in such institutions as that of which I am to-day to have the honour of laying the first stone. And most heartily do I join with you in congratulating the country that not even such a war as that in which we are now engaged, calculated as it is to enlist our warmest sympathies, and to engage our more immediate interest, can divert Englishmen from the noble work of fostering the arts of peace, and endeavouring to give a wider scope to the blessings of freedom and civilisation.

The stone was laid, and then the clergy presented an address, as also did the Committee of Council and medical officers of the Queen's Hospital. A luncheon was provided in the Town Hall, and, in reply to the toast of his health, the Prince made one of his happiest little speeches. The following gentlemen also addressed the company:—Sir Harry Smith, Sir Robert Peel, the Bishop of Manchester, Lords Stanley of Alderley, Stanley, Ashburton, Lyttelton, and Wrottesley, Captain Tindal, Sir Roderick Murchison, Earl Stanhope, the High Sheriff, the Mayor, and W. Scholefield, M.P. Lord Calthorpe, the president of the Institute, was in the chair.

At the conclusion of Prince Albert's speech the choir sang an ode written for the occasion by Mr. W. Bartholomew, and set to music by Mrs. Bartholomew. The music was good, but the words were of the usual character of such productions.

His Royal Highness left Birmingham the same evening and expressed his warm thanks for the great reception; and he said to the Mayor, "particularly thank the working classes."

The parts of the town through which the procession passed displayed a goodly number of flags, banners, and other decorations.

The Earl of Stamford had been invited to attend the ceremony, but not being able to comply with the invitation, he sent a donation of £150 towards the building fund—£100 for himself, and £50 for Lady Stamford.

On the following evening, November 23, Earl Stanhope delivered a lecture to the members and friends of the Institute on "Modern Rome and its Antiquities," realising a profit of £20 4s. 6d.; and on January 14, 1856, Lord Lyttelton gave his "Few Thoughts about Shakspere," which produced £4 12s. 0d.

In the beginning of the new year the Council introduced the admirable system of Penny Lectures; and the first of these was delivered by Mr. W. M. Williams, on January 22nd, 1856.

The Rev. Dr. Badham, head master of the Proprietary School, offered to teach a class in the Industrial Department, and deliver a course of lectures on "Language in Relation to the Laws of Thought and to Moral Science." The first of this course was delivered on the 13th of February, 1856. Some days before the commencement of the course, Dr. Badham addressed a circular to the working classes, explaining his purpose in delivering these lectures.

Early in February the tenders for executing the first portion of the Institute were opened, with the following result:—

	In Stone.	In Cement.
Piper (London)	£16,840	£15,380
Smith (Birmingham)	16,145	14,470
Nowell (Birmingham)	15,700	14,276
Cubitt (London)	15,730	14,106
Pashby (Birmingham)	15,550	14,050

	In Stone.	In Cement.
Hardwick (Birmingham)	15,540	£14,045
Lucas (London)	15,464	13,964
Cresswell (Birmingham)	15,300	13,680
Wilson (Birmingham)	15,150	13,660
Briggs (Birmingham)	14,900	13,450
Branston and Gwyther (Birmingham)	14,474	12,948

The tender of Messrs. Branson and Gwyther, subject to certain conditions, was accepted.

In April, 1856, the Artisans' Committee reported to the Council that they had for the present terminated their labours, and that the result of their canvass amongst the working classes had produced £110 1s. 3d.

The building was commenced in the last week of May, 1856.

FINIS.

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To the inhabitants of Birmingham and the neighbourhood, and the thousands of visitors who move in and out of the 'midland metropolis,' we strongly commend this work as being brimful of interest. Indeed it must form the basis of any future history of the great town. We heartily wish that every place of note possessed a chronicler so industrious and accomplished as Mr. Langford.

Carlisle Express.

His difficult task has evidently been a labour of love to a him ; and to practised and scholarly writer, animated by this spirit, all things are possible. With rare patience and industry he has waded through the unique and complete file of our contemporary, the *Birmingham Gazette*, extending back for upwards of a hundred years—an authority without consulting which, as Mr. Langford truly observes, no history of Birmingham could be written,—and as transcribed every fact, bearing on his subject, he met with in his laborious search. Besides this he has spared neither time nor labour in consulting other sources of information not generally available, but which were freely placed at his disposal ; and his practiced literary skill, and wide and varied knowledge have been employed with success in placing before the world, in the most attractive light possible, the numerous interesting facts he has thus diligently collected together. The book, if only for the instructive light it throws on the manners and customs of our forefathers, deserves a place in every library worthy of the name ; and we cordially commend it to the notice of our readers.

Durham Chronicle.

No better or truer reflex of Birmingham in the last century could well be presented, the editor having pursued his task with tact and care.

Birmingham Daily Post.

These and hundreds of more or less important events are fully illustrated from the contemporary accounts which Mr. Langford has contributed and collected with so much industry and care. No amount of detail, except a full description of all the numerous quotations in this volume, could give any adequate idea of its varied and peculiar interest, for it contains something under every heading which will be welcome to all tastes, and read with pleasure by all who feel any interest in such remarkable sketches of the life of our town.

Midland Counties Herald.

Having been granted access to the file of our venerable contemporary *Aris's Gazette*, Mr. Langford has extracted from it such advertisements, paragraphs, and reports as, with the knowledge derived from other sources, when properly grouped and strung together by explanatory remarks, convey an intelligible idea of how our forefathers lived and moved and had their being. His task has evidently involved much labour, not alone in the collection of the materials, but in their arrangement and elucidation. The result is satisfactory and interesting.

Birmingham Daily Gazette.

Mr. Langford, with devout laboriousness and loving discrimination, has toiled conscientiously through the formidable sequence, and has embodied the result in a volume, of which it is not too much to say that it contains more, and more trustworthy, materials for the history of Birmingham during the time of which it treats, than all the other contributions of our local history put together. He has brought to bear upon his self-imposed task the ready skill of one long versed in literary labours, the kindly insight of a poet, the genial enthusiasm of an antiquary, and the affection for his subject which becomes a true citizen of Birmingham.

The Town Crier.

His volume is most valuable, a most acceptable summary of those waifs and straws of public life, too trivial to be dignified as history, and yet the real material of which history is made. Mr. Langford deserves the hearty thanks of every Birmingham man, for the industry and care which he has shown in collecting these fruits of a century of our life. He has had the good fortune to propose a new form of local history, and to develop his plan by original, contemporary, and most important facts. His book will be read with interest by all who are in any way associated with our town.

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Westminster Review.

Probably there could be no better way for a foreigner to acquaint himself with some of the most important characteristics of English social and political life, than that of studying the life and institutions at one of the great manufacturing towns in the country. Such an opportunity is afforded by Dr. Langford in his interesting work on "Modern Birmingham and its Institutions." The work professes to be a chronicle of local events from 1841 to 1871, but these thirty years have proved so important in the development of English municipal life that the work presents, in fact, a vivid image of the modern growth of much that is most significant generally in modern life and institutions. Thus the history of the "Birmingham and Midland Institute" describes the first practical step to found it in 1849, by presenting a memorial to Lord John Russell requesting the Government to extend the Act for encouraging the establishment of Museums in large towns. All the details of the mode in which the movement was carried out are described, and, what must be very interesting to the people of Birmingham, the names are given of all the persons who took part in the different proceedings. So with the Birmingham Free Libraries and Free Art Gallery; the provision made of late years for education and literature, and even for amusement, are described with the most scrupulous precision.

British Quarterly Review.

This is a completion of 'The History of the Hardware Village for One Hundred and Thirty Years,' the first part of which was told in the author's 'Century of Birmingham Life.' Like Huddersfield, Birmingham has had one of those gigantic growths rapid as a mushroom, but likely to be permanent as the greatness of England, which are so characteristic of modern commercial life both in England and America. All that can here be said about the first volume, which brings the chronicle down to the close of 1859, is that it is a compilation from newspapers, arranged diurnally, and giving a concise digest of events. A good deal of it, is necessarily surplusage for general readers, but the work will be a valuable municipal record.

Illustrated London News.

The author, Dr. John Alfred Langford, LL.D., produced not very long ago the approved history of that town from 1741 to 1841, entitled "A Century of Birmingham Life." It was compiled from a variety of original documents, obscure chronicles, reports in old newspapers, advertisements, and paragraphs of local news from *Aris's Gazette*, and other scraps of literary antiquity. The civil and social affairs of Birmingham during the last thirty years have gained in their day a wider and surer publicity. They have been more fully reported by an ably conducted local press, and not unfrequently by that of the metropo-

lis. Yet the combination of this diversity of incidents into a review of the progress of the town was a task worth performing. The volume now put forth is but the first of Dr. Langford's history of the recent and contemporary improvements in Birmingham. It comes down to 1861, leaving ten years more to be related in a second volume. He has likewise divided the twenty years here reviewed into two decennial periods. Each of these long chapters, occupying half the volvme, is subdivided into as many sections as belong to different social interests or institutions. Beginning with a description of the appearance of the town at the date referred to, Dr. Langford narrates in due order the events of its public life, the doings of his fellow-citizens in polities, education, literature, fine arts, amusements, charities, law suits, and receptions of distinguished visitors. These matters are just what may be found in the weekly or daily record of local proceedings in any wealthy and populous English provincial town, with that degree of public spirit and intelligence which attends the successful practice of manufacturing or commercial industry. Birmingham, as well as Manchester, which has latterly become rather inert, contains perhaps a larger amount of social energy, in proportion to its size, than exists in the huge bulk of London.

Notes and Queries.

Dr. Langford is approaching the close of his long and valuable labours. He has already told the story of Birmingham from a very early period down to the first year named in the above title-page. Books compiled as these have been, with scholarly care and rare discretion, are among the best contributions to local history. Dr. Langford has not much more to tell, and we congratulate him on the approaching termination of a work which does him so much honour.

School Board Chronicle.

From the files of a most excellent local newspaper press, from official minutes, reports and records of local corporations and institutions, from personal recollection, and from the information afforded by living men, Dr. Langford has drawn together a huge mass of matter, which, in the very accessible form of an ordinary octavo book, must be of great value to all who are engaged in public affairs in the town, of great interest to every intelligent townsman, and moreover of no small importance to the public generally, who may want to refresh their memories with regard to the occurrances and the public personages of the last thirty years, since Birmingham has had a tolerably close connection, during these thirty years, with the leading men and women and events of the time.

Examiner.

Having already published two interesting volumes about Birmingham history, between 1741 and 1841, Dr. Langford is now telling the story of the remaining thirty years in two other volumes, and the one now published is certainly not less attractive than its predecessors. Dr. Langford is almost too modest a compiler. He gives precision, and sometimes quaintness to his narrative, by making so many verbatim extracts from contemporary sheets, and the strict chronological order in which he generally arranges his materials may help some who refer to his book to find in it more easily what they want. The work is quite accurately described as "a chronicle of local events."

Iron.

The local history of Birmingham has been, perhaps, more fully written than that of many places of equal or superior importance. A good proportion of that work has been done by the accomplished author of the volume before us, who intimates that in this and a previous book he has narrated the history of the "hardware village" during a period of one hundred and thirty years. The present publication is carefully and laboriously compiled from newspapers

and other records existing in the town; and under the heads of "Public Life and Events," and "Political Record," we have notice of persons and occurrences of more than local importance. The section on education and literature is very interesting, and the state of things it discloses most creditable to the public spirit and intelligence of the townsmen; and, whilst that headed "Amusements" has an interest merely local and temporary, the very full details supplied of the Society of Arts and School of Design, the Birmingham and Midland Institute, the Birmingham Free Libraries, and the Free Art Gallery, possess one wide and general furnishing encouraging precedent and patterns to all who have at heart the improvement of the popular intellect and taste.

Birmingham Daily Post.

More than five hundred pages of this first of two volumes take up the modern story of our town on the plan so successful in the "Century of Birmingham Life." Dividing periods into "decades" describing the public life and events, political record, education and literature, amusements, and public institutions, the editor has collected a mass of reports, events, figures, and statistics generally, with a good deal of narrative concerning the progress of our town during thirty eventful years. The history of the Blue Coat School, of the Birmingham and Midland Institute, of the Free Libraries, of the Birmingham and Edgbaston Debating Society, of the Shakespeare Memorial Library, of the Public Art Gallery, are very fully told. A crowd of facts now half forgotten by those who took part in them, are given in this instructive volume, for all its facts are "official," from original reports, prospectuses, or correspondence, and hence if it sins at all it sins on the side of too much detail. To the majority of readers probably a mere narrative of facts, well compiled, condensed, and indexed would be more acceptable; but every page of this volume gives some fact or other which none of the actors in the events, nor any true historian of our town, could or should forget. The editor has spared no pains in compilation, and although some omissions may be noted, and many errors have to be corrected, his volume will be very acceptable to all who care to review, from official sources and unquestionable facts, the history of our town.

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